

A  
Circumstantial and Impartial  
A C C O U N T  
OF THE  
G R A N D C O N T E S T  
FOR A  
MEMBER to serve in PARLIAMENT  
FOR THE  
CITY of *WORCESTER*;  
WITH THE  
DEPOSITIONS of the EVIDENCES,  
BEFORE A  
Select Committee of the House of Commons,  
ON  
SIR WATKIN LEWES' S  
CHARGE OF  
*B - R I B E R Y*.  
A L S O  
P A R T I C U L A R S  
OF THE  
S E C O N D E L E C T I O N.  
To which are added,  
C O P I E S  
OF THE  
PUBLICATIONS in Favour of each PARTY  
DURING THIS CONTEST.

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THE SECOND EDITION.

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Embellished with Two humorous COPPER-PLATES.

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L O N D O N :  
PRINTED FOR J. SWAN, OPPOSITE NORFOLK-STREET,  
IN THE STRAND.

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A N  
A C C O U N T  
OF THE LONG CONTESTED  
E L E C T I O N  
FOR THE  
CITY of WORCESTER,  
*Anno 1773, 1774.*

 THE Public Attention having lately been engrossed and every Ear open to receive the Reports circulating concerning the Election for the City of Worcester, some of which may, no Doubt, prove erroneous, the following genuine Narration, it is hoped, will give Satisfaction to the curious Reader.

Upon the Death of Henry Crabb Boulton, Esq; a Meeting of the Citizens was desired by the following Notice:

Worcester, 15th Oct. 1773.

The Mayor and Corporation desire a Meeting of the Citizens, on Tuesday next, the 19th Instant, at the Guild-Hall, at Ten o'Clock in the Morning, to consider of a proper Person to represent them in Parliament, in the Room of the late Mr. Boulton,

JOHN BELL, Deputy Town Clerk.

In the Worcester Journal, Oct. 14, there appeared an Advertisement, and an Address to the Freemen of the City of Worcester, exciting them to act with Circumspection in the Choice of a Representative, and that the glorious Example of Disinterestedness and Independence, which has immortalized other Cities and Boroughs, be imitated in this, desiring them to abolish that disgraceful Custom of Drinking, Rioting, and Revelling, previous to an Election, assuring them that the Man who means to serve them faithfully and honestly requires no other Recommendation than an unblemished Integrity.

On Tuesday the 19th of October, according to the before-mentioned Notice, the Citizens assembled, and the two following Gentlemen declared themselves Candidates to represent the City in the room of the late Member, viz. William Kelly, Esq; a very eminent America Merchant; and Thomas Bates Rous, Esq; one of the Directors of the East India Company; and began canvassing immediately.

After this a Country Gentleman, C. T. W——rs, Esq; was proposed, who was willing to become a Candidate provided he could be elected without Opposition: This not being agreed to, that Gentleman's Proposal was dropped, and Mr. Rous and Mr. Kelly published the following Advertisements.

Worcester, 19th October, 1773.

To the worthy Freemen of the City of Worcester.  
Gentlemen,

Having been this Day honoured with the Nomination of the Freemen and Citizens in Common Hall assembled, as a proper Person to succeed your late worthy Representative in Parliament, Henry Crabb Boulton, Esq; I take the Liberty most earnestly to request the Favour of your Support on the Day of Election. Should I be so happy as to represent this antient and respectable City, an honest and independent Conduct during the Remainder of the present Parliament, will, I flatter myself, prove the best Recommendation to your future Confidence.

I have the Honour to be,

With the greatest Respect,

Your most devoted Servant,

THOMAS BATES ROUS.



To

To the worthy Freemen of the City of Worcester,  
Gentlemen,

Having been nominated and approved by a very great Majority of the Citizens of Worcester, at a public Convention of the Citizens on Tuesday last, as a proper Person to represent this City in Parliament, in the Room of Henry Crabb Boulton, Esq. deceased, I take the Liberty of soliciting the Favour of your Suffrages on the Day of Election; and if I am so happy as to succeed, (which my late Canvass gives me the most sanguine Expectations of) I shall ever be impressed with a most lively Sense of the Obligation I shall lie under to my Constituents; shall exert my utmost Abilities in the Support of the Constitution, for the Extension of the Trade of the City of Worcester, and in the general Service of those I shall have the Honour to represent.

I am, with great Respect, Gentlemen,

Your obliged and obedient humble Servant,  
Worcester, Oct. 25, 1773. W. KELLY.

The Canvass now went on with great Spirit on each Side, both Candidates flattering themselves with Success. Nothing but the Noise of *No Kelly!*—*No Rous!* was to be heard, and a Freeman now became, in his own Opinion, as great as an Emperor, but much happier, for instead of a fine downy Bed he could be now content to lie in the Kennel, or, at least, rake up with a Seat upon a cold Threshold, and, reclining his Head to the Door case Angle by Way of Pillow, bellow out his worst Language against the contrary Party, without any other Opposition, perhaps, than the Strength of the Liquor, contending for the mastery of his inarticulate Sound.

A Paper War next ensued, which was carried on with great Bravery on each Side, each Party thinking himself happy on the Recollection of the Foibles of the other; the Re-publication of which would almost fill a large Volume.

On Thursday Morning, November 11, to the great Astonishment of his Friends, and of the Citizens in general, Mr. Kelly declined all further Opposition to Mr. Rous. As Mr. Kelly's Friends had supported him with unexampled Spirit and Assiduity, and the greatest Hopes of Success, and as this Step was taken without even the Knowledge of any one of those who had exerted themselves in his Interest, it is inconceivable what Consternation and Disgust it produced amongst the Gentlemen



lemen of his Committee, whom he had hastily convened that Morning, on Purpose to make known to them his Determination ; by whom he was censured and reproached in the most severe Terms, and the Populace, when acquainted with this Event, were so fired with Indignation and Wrath, that it was with the greatest Difficulty some few of his abused Friends (through a Principle of Humanity) conducted him safe across the Street from Tom's Coffee-House to his Lodgings.

In the Evening the Populace beset his Lodgings, and uttered the most terrifying Threats against him ; and lest he should escape their Vengeance by getting out of Town in the Night, they got his Carriage from the Inn, and after dragging it about the Streets, took it down to the Bridge, with an Intent to throw it into the Severn, but were persuaded to desist. They then dragged it up to his Lodgings, when, in order to prevent their proceeding to Violence, Mr. Kelly was obliged to appear at the Window, and make the best Apology he could for his Conduct ; said he had done them no Injury, and intended none ; and that if it was their Wish he would yet stand a Poll. By this Scheme he prevailed on them to take the Carriage back to the Inn and disperse.

The next Evening a much more numerous Concourse of People paraded the Streets, with a Drum beating, Colours flying, and two Effigies, (on one of which was a Label with these Words, *I have my Friends betrayed*) and marched up before Mr. Kelly's Lodgings again, where they became very tumultuous, and would not retire till Mr. Kelly once more assured them he would stand a Poll. On their Departure, the Effigies were kicked and rolled about the Streets, and at last tore in Pieces. After this they proceeded to the Bell-Inn, and insisted on having Mr. Rous's Carriage given up to them ; it being refused they became very turbulent, and much Mischief probably would have ensued, had not the Mayor appeared with some Constables, and threatened Commitment to those who did not instantly disperse ; which had the desired Effect, for about Eleven o'Clock not a riotous Person was to be seen.

On Saturday Mr. Kelly appeared publicly in the Streets, and received no Insult, and in the Evening entirely left the Town, without meeting with the least Obstruction, owing to his very prudently contriving to be conveyed across the Fields to a Post-chaise, which waited for him near the Turnpike on the London Road.

The

The Friends of Mr. Kelly, though disappointed by this extraordinary, unexpected Behaviour, were still determined to oppose Mr. Rous; an Invitation was therefore sent to Sir Watkin Lewes, who accepted of the same, and arrived on Monday Morning, about an Hour before the Election came on, amidst the Shouts and Acclamations of all Mr. Kelly's before dejected Friends.—Sir Watkin just stepped out of his Carriage at the Inn, and in a few Minutes after repaired to the Town-Hall with several respectable Citizens. Upon his Arrival there, the Hall resounded with exulting Shouts from the People for near an Hour, so that it was with great Difficulty the Poll could be carried on; and the Populace continued very noisy, by expressing their Approbation or Displeasure according as each Voter polled.

Upon Sir Watkin's Arrival, immediately was published the following Address :

To the Worthy and Independent Freemen of the City of Worcester.

Gentlemen,

THE Favour of your Votes, Interest, and Poll are desired for Sir WATKIN LEWES, Alderman of the City of London, to be one of your Representatives in Parliament instead of Henry Crabb Boulton, Esq; deceased, being a Gentleman who hath distinguished himself in the Cause of Liberty, and hath lately received the Thanks of the Livery of London for his spirited Behaviour while Sheriff of that City. Exert Yourselves then, Gentlemen, in Support of a Man of Independent Principles, who hath already given Proofs of his Ability, and shewn, that he is worthy of your Confidence. Be assured he will reflect Honour on your Choice, by supporting your Consequence in Parliament, and promoting the Manufactures, Trade and Commerce of the City of Worcester.

N. B. May the same Spirit of Liberty which animates the City of London, now animate the City of Worcester.

The

The following is the exact STATE of the POLL.

		15th Nov. 1773.	
		<i>Rous.</i>	<i>Lewes.</i>
Monday 15th,	—	51	60
Tuesday 16th,	—	44	43
Wednesday 17th,	—	100	100
Thursday 18th,	—	83	83
Friday 19th,	—	63	63
Saturday 20th,	—	87	87
Monday 22d,	—	103	103
Tuesday 23d,	—	146	46
Wednesday 24th,	—	176	26
Thursday 25th,	—	47	24
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		900	635
Majority in Favour of Mr. Rous, at the final Close		<hr/>	<hr/>
of the Poll			265

Mr. Rous was then returned as duly elected.

The last Day of the Poll Mr. Rous, being indisposed, did not appear in the Hall; whereupon George Rous, Esq; (his Brother) was Proxy for him, and was likewise chaired and carried through the several Streets in the accustomed Manner, as was likewise Sir Watkin Lewes.

After the polling was finished, Mr. George Rous, as also Sir Watkin, addressed the Court, each in a very genteel and spirited Manner.

The Reason why so small a Number were polled each Day is, because the Bribery Oath was administered to almost every Person, and many Instances of Bribery were proved in open Court.

Mr. Rous's Friends were so positive of his being returned without Opposition, that every Thing was in Readiness for his being chaired and carried through the City in the usual Form; but Sir Watkin's unexpected Arrival occasioned a very material Turn in Affairs.

The two Candidates, accompanied by their respective friends, were escorted to and from the Hall every Day by a great number of Constables, with Streamers and Music, and two Pages very elegantly dressed.

On



On Friday Noon, Nov. 26, Sir Watkin set out for London. The Populace, in order to express their Esteem and Attachment to him, insisted upon drawing him in his Carriage from the Inn to the Turnpike, attended by the Pages, Music, &c. in regular Procession. As soon as they arrived thither, the Horses were put to, and then Sir Watkin took a polite Leave.

On Sunday Morning Mr. Rous, attended by most of the Members of the Corporation, went to hear divine Service at the Cathedral, after which he and his Brother took a genteel Leave; then Mr. Rous gave the Men had who had been his Constables, a very handsome Present, and departed the City.

The Spirit and Confidence on both Sides far exceeded any former Contest for the City.—Violent Wranglings, Confusions, &c. happened every Day; many illiberal Expressions were thrown out by both Parties; and several ungenteel Taunts and Sneers levelled at the Candidate.—And now and then Circumstances arose which afforded Diversion to the whole Court; one in particular was a Scuffle between the Law and the Gospel, in the Persons of a young Counsellor and a young Divine which ended in no other Disgrace than their rolling and tumbling together for some Time on the Council Table.

During the Time of Election Sir Watkin published an Address to the Freemen, in which he complained of many notorious Instances of Bribery appearing, and even accused the Magistrates themselves: An Answer was then made to it, dated November 20, and signed *A Freeman*, which DARED Sir Watkin to name any one Alderman guilty of Bribery: Upon which Sir Watkin re published the same with an Addition, the Copy of which is as follows;

To the Independent and Worthy Freemen of the  
City of Worcester.

Gentlemen,

Permit me to take this Method (having arrived in Town but just before the Poll began, which prevented my paying my personal Respects to you) to solicit the Favour of your Votes and Interest: and I hope, Gentlemen, when you are informed of the Necessity I am under of continuing in Court to acknowledge the animated Zeal of the Friends of Freedom in supporting their own Right of a free Election, and of giving their *Suffrages Unbribed and Uninfluenced*, that you will excuse a personal Canvass.

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The

The prolonging the Poll (which has been complained of) by tendering the Oaths, has been made absolutely necessary from the many notorious Instances of Bribery which have appeared. Whatever Disorder or Delay has ensued, is to be imputed with more Justice to your Aldermen \*, whose peculiar Duty it is to preserve Peace and good Order, and who, instead of setting Examples of Virtue, have degraded their stations, and the Magistracy of the City, by being guilty of Bribery, and corrupting the Morals of the People. Tyranny and Oppression are the necessary Consequences of Corruption, and must be the Destruction of your Trade and Commerce, which only flourishes in the *Land of Liberty*.

I should disdain to head a Faction, a canting Expression without Meaning.—Is it factious to preserve the Freedom of Election?—I will follow the Voice of Liberty and my Country, and wherever it leads me I will obey. It is the *Voice of Freedom* that is heard in your Streets, in Opposition to that of *Corruption*.

I am, Gentlemen,  
With great Respect and Esteem,  
Your very humble Servant,

WATKIN LEWES.

Worcester, Nov. 23, 1773.

\* *I am dared by an anonymous Libeller to name any one Alderman, and in Consequence, I name Aldermen CORNE, WAKEMAN, WELLINGS, SQUIRE, MILLINGTON, and CORNWELL.*

*The Particulars of the Proceedings of a certain Grand Assembly.*

Thursday; Jan. 20th, 1774.

After the Speaker had taken the Chair, Mr. Crosby desired Leave “to present a Petition from Sir Watkin Lewes, for an undue Election for the City of Worcester,” which was read accordingly, setting forth, “that Bribery had been used; that the Aldermen of Worcester had caused several Persons to vote for Mr. Rous; and that the Sheriff of Worcester had been guilty of Partiality, in suffering People to vote for Mr. Rous that were not qualified, and refusing to let several Freemen poll for Sir Watkin, by which Means Mr. Rous had illegally procured a Majority of Votes; and praying that the House would take the same into Consideration, and grant their Petitioner Redress.”

Mr.

Mr. Crosby then made a Motion, " That Wednesday Se'nnight, the Second of February, be appointed for debating this important Affair, and that the Speaker should issue his Warrant, or Warrants, for any Papers respecting the Election to be laid before the House, as the Parties shall think fit."

Mr. Rous then got up, and made an Apology for " its being the first Time he had spoken in that honourable Assembly ; but that he assured the House, the Petition contained several Falsties, as neither he, nor any Agents for him, had made Use of any Bribery, Threats, or or other illegal Methods, to obtain a single Vote ; neither had the Aldermen (whom Sir Watkin had been please to stile his Agents) nor the Sheriff, been guilty of any such Thing as they were accused of ; therefore he gave his assent to its being debated on the Day proposed."

Mr. Buller said, " that he thought the Petition came with a very ill Grace from Mr. Crosby, because when he was at the Summit of Popularity, when he was confined in the Tower ' for the Good of his Country,' the Aldermen of Worcester waited on him, and presented him with the richest Products of their Country ; ann that he was certain the Aldermen of Worcester were as great Lovers of Freedom as any Men living."

Mr. Crosby replied, " that it was true, when he was confined in the Tower for doing a Piece of Service to his Country, he received a Deputation from Worcester, presenting him with the Freedom of that City ; but though they had done him so great an Honour, if at any Time they should be guilty of illegal Proceedings, no Person would be more ready to arraign their Conduct than himself, which was the sole Reason of his bringing up the Petition."

Sir Watkin and Mr. Wallace his Attorney then withdrew, and the Petition was referred to the Consideration of the House on Wednesday Se'nnight, when a Committee will be ballotted for, under the late Act of Parliament, to judge of the Allegation of the Petition, and make their Report to the House;

Friday, January 28.

The Speaker took the Chair a little after Three o'Clock. Soon after which Mr. Alderman Crosby brought in a Petition



from the Inhabitants of Worcester, which was to the following Purport: "That on the Death of Henry Crabb Boulton, Esq; Thomas Bates Rous, Esq; declared himself as a Candidate, and had caused great Sums of Money to be spent in that City, and several Public-Houses to be opened for the Reception of the Freemen; that the whole City, by that Means, was in a continual Confusion from the Death of Henry Crabb Boulton, Esq; to the End of the Election, to the great Detriment of Trade; that by such illegal Methods, in open Violation of the Laws of the Land, Mr. Rous had gained a Majority of Votes, and corrupted the Morals of the People; and, praying, that that honourable Assembly would take their Petition into Consideration, and give them such Relief as shall, upon Examination, appear to be just."

The said Petition was ordered to be taken into Consideration on Wednesday, Feb. 2. at the same Time that the Petition of Sir Watkin Lewes, Knt. was ordered to be taken into Consideration.

Mr. Whitworth desired to look at the Petition, to see who had signed it, when it appeared that only two had put their Names, and one his Mark, which occasioned a general Laugh.

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The following was sent to the Printer of the Worcester Paper, and inserted Feb. 3.

*" From Mr. Rous's Committee.*

*" Mr. Berrow,*

*" If you chuse to give your Readers the Names of  
" those respectable Gentlemen who signed the Petition  
" to Parliament, complaining of the Riots occasioned  
" in this City by Mr. Rous's Treating, &c. you may  
" depend upon this Intelligence, 'Tis signed by*

*" JOHN YOUNG,*

*" WILLIAM ASHTON, and*

*" JOHN † READ,*

*" Who made his Mark.*

*" Please to remark, they are all of London.*

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Wednesday,

Wednesday, February 2.

At a Quarter past Three o'Clock, the Speaker took the Chair, there being 104 Members present. Sir Watkin Lewes and his Council; likewise the Council for Mr. Rous, were ordered in, and the Doors locked. The House then proceeded to ballot for a Committee to try the Merits of Sir Watkin Lewes's, and the Freeman of Worcester's Petitions, which ended at Four o'Clock; the Council then withdrew, with the Names of the fifty-one Members ballotted, in order to chuse Thirteen for the Committee, and returned in about a Quarter of an Hour, when Mr. White, Clerk of the Committee, gave in the Names of the following Members as approved of by the Council.

Sir Brownlow Cust, Bart.  
Joshua Mauger, Esq;  
Sir Tho. Clavering, Bart.  
William Burrell, Esq;  
John Smith, Esq;  
Henry Penton, Esq;  
William Wollaston, Esq;

Sir Henry St. John.  
Sir William Guise, Bart.  
Sir Matthew White Ridley.  
Benjamin Langley, Esq;  
Hon. Charles Mafsham.  
John Rushout, Esq.

Lord George Germaine, Nominee for Sir W. Lewes.  
Sir Richard Sutton, Ditto for T. Bates Rous, Esq.

They then severally took the following Oath, and withdrew to the Committee-Room :

*I, A. B. do solemnly swear, that I will well and truly try the Merits of these Petitions, and a true Verdict give. So help me God.*

It was with great Difficulty that sufficient Members to form a House [*at the balloting for a Committee to try undue Elections, 100 Members make a House; at any other Time 40*] could be procured; the Messengers were dispatched to the different Coffee-Houses, and the Serjeant at Arms was a considerable Time parading about Westminster-Hall, with the Mace in his Hand, pressing Members as they came in.

Thursday, February 3.

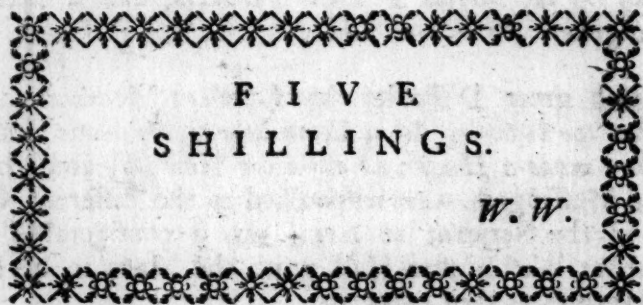
The Committee met, according to Appointment, in the new Committee Chamber: The Hon. Mr. Charles Mafsham acquainted

quainted the Council, "that the Committee had come to a Resolution no Evidence of private Conversation should be heard."

Mr. Beacroft and Mr. Lee, Council for Sir Watkin Lewes, then called in William Charles, who said, "that Mr. Rous on his canvassing took him by the Hand, and desired his Vote and Interest:" He told him, "he could not promise;" upon which Mr. Rous said to Mr. W-k-n-n, (one of his Agents that was with him) *give him a Ticket*. He accordingly received a Ticket from Mr. W-k-n-n, and went to Mr. W-k-n-n's House to be paid; but Mr. Bore, Mr. W-k-n-n's Clerk, desired him to wait a little till he got Change; He had not waited more than six Minutes before three other Freemen came in with Tickets, when Mr. Bore gave him a Guinea, and desired him to divide it among them; that he afterwards received three other Tickets from W-k-n-n, and two more were left at his House with his Wife for him; that he received 5s. 3d. for each, from Mr. Bore, who took the Tickets, and strung them on a File with several more.

He was then asked by Messrs. Mansfield and Gross, Council for Mr. Rous, *whom he polled for?* He answered, "That he came to the Hustings with an Intention to poll for Sir Watkin, but the Bribery Oath being put to him, he would not poll at all, conscious that if he did he should perjure himself."

Some of the Tickets were produced, printed on Cards nearly the Size of this:



Edward Harcourt was next called in, and proved his having received Tickets from Mr. W-k-n-n, who was present with Mr. Rous. He said, "that Mr. Rous asked him if he was a Freeman?" He told him "No." Upon which Mr. Rous said, "I'll get you your Freedom;" which was accordingly done. He said "several Tickets were left at his House by Mr. W-k-n-n,



W—l—n, for him, and that his Wife always received 5s. 3d. for each from Mr. Bore."

Mrs. Mary Harcourt, Wife of the last Evidence, was called in, and proved her receiving the Money from Mr. Bore.

John Kingett said " he received several Ticketts from Mr. C—w—l, who was publicly known to be an Agent for Mr. Rous, and was stiled *Mr. Rous's Manager* ;" that Mr. Rous came canvassing with Mr. C—w—l, Mr. J—s, and several of the Aldermen, and took him by the Hand, and desired his Vote and Interest, and said, " Mr. C—w—l, give him a Ticket." Mr. C—w—l said " No ; let the Mob be gone first." That as soon as the Mob dispersed, Mr. C—w—l gave him a Ticket, for which he received 5s. 3d. and afterwards received several more before the Election.

Mr. Mansfield asked him " if Mr. Rous was the *only* Person who gave Tickets ?" He said " No ; that Mr. Kelly gave some, but they were carried to any of the Bakers in the City, who gave them five Shillings worth of *Bread* for each Ticket."

He was asked " Whom he polled for ?" he said " Mr. Rous."

Mr. Mansfield asked him " how he came to poll for Mr. Rous when he had received *Bribes* ?" He answered " that discouraging with Mr. Gould, who desired him to vote for Mr. Rous, he had told him that if the Bribery Oath was put to him he would *not* Poll, that when he came to the Hustings to poll, the Oath was not administered to him, which was the Reason why he gave his Vote.

Elizabeth Jakeman was called in, who proved Mr. Rous's and Mr. C—w—l's Discourse with Kingett.

The Town-Clerk, and Deputy-Clerk, produced the Books to prove the Evidences being Freemen.

The Council for Sir Watkin acquainted the Committee, " that they had several more Evidences ready to call in if they  
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chose it, but imagined those already examined would be sufficient."

Dr. Burrell, one of the Committee, was greatly in Favour of Mr. Rous, and put several Interrogatories to the Witnesses; he desired to know the Reason "why Charles and Harcourt were inclined to vote for Sir Watkin, when he was an entire Stranger to them?" to which Mr. Mansfield, Council for Mr. Rous said, "*he imagined Sir Watkin's Person was more Attracting.*"

February 5.

Two Evidences were called in, whose Depositions ran nearly the same as those of Thursday, setting forth "that *Tickets* had been given them, for which they received *Money.*"

A woman was then called in, who proved that Mr. Rous himself had given Money to one Yarnel.

— Bumpas said, that about ten Days before the Election, Mr. T. B. Rous and Mr. George Rous were with him (and several more Men who had served their Time in Worcester, but not taken up their Freedom) at an Inn in Wardour-street, Soho. [*Here Mr. T. B. Rous told his Counsel, "that he was never at the House mentioned, neither had the Evidence ever seen him, nor did he believe that he knew him."* The Evidence was asked to look round, and see if Mr. Rous was in the Room; he immediately pointed out Mr. T. B. Rous, and his brother George Rous.] That Mr. T. B. Rous himself told them, "if they wanted any Money to take them down to Worcester they might have it, as far as *Two or Three Guineas* each; that he received a *Guinea* from Mr. Dancox, Master of the Inn, and several others received some Money, but how much he could not say; that they went to the Stage, and arrived at Worcester on the Sunday Evening before the Election; and that on the Monday Morning he took up his Freedom.

Dr. Burrell asked him "Who paid for his Freedom?" he answered, "Mr. Rous."

He was then asked, "Whom he voted for," he said, "he said he did not vote at all."

He

He was desired "to give his Reason for not voting." He said, "because the Bribery Oath was put to him, and he could not vote without perjuring himself."

Dr. Burrell asked him, "Who he intended to have polled for?" he said, "Sir Watkin."

Dr. Burrell asked him, "What made him change his Opinion?" he said, "That he heard Sir Watkin was a Member of the Bill of Rights, and one that would serve his Country."

Dr. Burrell asked him, "Whether he thought Mr. Rous would not serve his Country as well as Sir Watkin?" He said, "No! he had but a bad Opinion of a Man who was obliged to buy Favour."

The Council for Sir Watkin acquainted the Committee, they should call in Thomas Powell next, who could prove that Mr. G. Rous, Mr. Alderman W—ll—ngs, and Mr. Alderman Sq—re, came on board a Barge to him, and desired his Vote and Interest, and that one of them gave him a *Ticket*.

Mr. Mansfield, one of the Council for Mr. Rous, got up, and objected to any more Evidences being called in, as he said, "the proving of Money given by Mr. Alderman W—k—m—n, or any other Person who was stiled an *Agent for Mr. Rous*, did not bring the Bribery *home* to Mr. Rous himself; he owned that Mr. George Rous, Mr. W—k—m—n, and Mr. R—ch—rds, were authorised to canvas for Mr. Rous, but denied that Mr. Rous gave them any Authority to dispose of Tickets."

Mr. Beacroft, Council for Sir Watkin, answered him, and said, "Had he not known him for a long Time, from his Method of arguing, he should have concluded he was one of those Gentry [a Jesuit] that lately fled from Rome to Paris; that he trusted the Committee would think the Evidence sufficient to prove, that those Gentlemen *did* act as *Agents* for Mr. Rous, and would be satisfied that they had Commission from Mr. T. B. Rous so to act; that if so, it was his Opinion, Mr. T. B. Rous was answerable for any *AB* they committed."

Mr. Mansfield attempted to answer him, but the Committee interfered.



Lord George Germaine said he understood the Question now to be determined was, " whether the Bribery in any Manner affected Mr. Rous, unless he was present at the Giving and Receiving of the Money.

Mr. Mansfield answered " It did."

Lord George Germaine then said, " Mr. Rous might have procured Persons to bribe every Man in the City of Worcester, and only by having Prudence to keep out of the Way himself, stand clear of any Charge of Bribery; that such a Doctrine to him appeared absurd. He said, he always understood the Principal was answerable for the Conduct of his Agent, and desired to know what Interest or View those Gentlemen had in bribing Persons, and spending their own Money for the Service of Mr. Rous."

The Council was then ordered to withdraw, but returned in about ten Minutes.

The Chairman (Mr. Malsham) acquainted them that the Committee had come to a Resolution " that the Evidence of Thomas Powell, should be heard." He was accordingly called in, and said, that Mr. G. Rous, Mr. W-ll-ngs, and Mr. Sq-re, came on board his Barge, and desired his Vote for Mr. T. B. Rous; he told them he could not promise that; they urged him very strongly to give it, and before they went away, one of the Three (he could not say which) gave him a Ticket to receive 5s. 3d. from Mr. W-k-m-n.

The Council were again ordered to withdraw for a few Minutes.

On their Return, Mr. Malsham acquainted them, " It was the Opinion of the Committee that as Thomas Powell could not positively say who gave him the Ticket, his Evidence was not material."

T. Powell was again called in only to prove that he did receive 5s. 3d. for the Ticket which was given him on board the Barge.

Thomas

Thomas Howell was next called, who said " that Mr. T. B. Rous, accompanied by Mr. H--p-r, called at his House in their Canvas round the Parish he lived in ; that Mr. T. B. Rous took him by the Hand, and desired his Vote ;" that he answered, " he could not promise,"—Mr. Rous said, " Do promise, and you shall have any Money or Tickets that you want ;" but he positively refused giving any certain Answer. That Mr. Rous said to Mr. H--p-r, in his hearing, " I will take a little Walk, and in the mean while you may persuade him to promise." That Mr. Rous soon returned, and asked him " if he had not thought better of it ?" He said, No." Upon which Mr. Rous went away, and said, " Mr. H--p-r, give him, however, a Ticket." That Mr. H--p-r did give him a Ticket, for which he received 5s. 3d. and that several Tickets were afterwards left at his House by Mr. V-r-n-n, another of Mr. Rous's Agents.

Peregrine Phillips was next called in, who proved that Mr. W-k-m-n, and several other Aldermen, with Mr. M-th-rs the Sheriff, espoused Mr. Rous's Cause at a Place called the Committee House, adjoining to the Town Hall ; that when the China-men came to poll, Mr. M-th-rs refused to let them ; that he, Mr. Phillips, and Sir Watkin several Times asked Mr. M-th-rs " his Reason for refusing them ;" but Mr. M-th-rs always refused to assign any other than " that he had taken Opinion upon it, and would be answerable for any Thing he did."

Dr. Burrell asked him " if he could guess what the Reasons where ?" He answered, " It was said in the Town, those Men, while Apprentices, did not sleep in their Masters Houses."—He said, " that as Sir Watkin passed with him from their Inn to the Town Hall, they were continually hissed from the Party at the Committee House, who threw out of the Window Clouds of inflammatory Hand-bills."

James Robinson said, " That a Person called at his House, and told him he was wanted at the King of Prussia in Edgar-Street." He accordingly went, and found M. W-k-m-n, Mr. M-th-rs, and Mr. Barmore, in a Room by themselves ; that Mr. Barmore told him, " he was wanted to go round with him to deliver some Tickets to the Freemen of St. Martin's Parish ;  
that

as Mr. Barmore and he were going away, they passed through an adjoining Room where Mr. T. B. Rous was, with several of the Aldermen and Freemen" That Mr. T. B. Rous said to Mr. Barmore, " Mr. Barmore, don't ask any Favour of the Freemen, but give every one in St. Martin's Parish a Ticket;" that he did go round to the Freemen with Mr. Barmore, and was present at the Delivery of *Thirty Tickets* or more.

He was asked by Sir Thomas Clavering, " What was the Price of the Tickets?" he said, " Some were marked *Five Gallons*."

Mr. Masham desired to know, " what was the Signification of five gallons?" he answered, " That any Publican in the City of Worcester would give them five Gallons of Ale for the Ticket."

He was asked, " if He had any of those Tickets given him?" He said, " *Yes*."

Mr. Mansfield then asked him, " if he was he was not a Constable during the Election?" He said, " *Yes*."

He was greatly pressed likewise by Mr. Gros, to declare if there was not a great Occasion for Constables, owing to the to the riotous Behaviour of Sir Watkin's Electors, but said, " he could not tell;" he saw one Man ill used, and there was a little Riot the first Morning of the Election, but nothing to signify."

The Committee asked Sir Watkin's Council, " if they had any more Witnesses to examine?"

Mr. Beacroft answered, " *Yes*, eight or nine."

The Committee broke up a near Five o'Clock.

Saturday,



Saturday, February 6th.

The Committee met at a Quarter past Twelve o'Clock, Mr. Beacroft acquainted the Committee the first Person he should call in would be — Egberrows, to prove that he received some of those Tickets of which so much Talk had been made the Day before. Mr. Mansfield objected to any more Evidences being called in, as they could not prove Mr. Rous himself gave any Ticket; that if Mr. W—k—m— had been imprudent enough to give away Money and Tickets, it could not be supposed Mr. Rous was to be answerable for his Conduct. The Committee said Sir Watkin had a Right to call in as many Evidences as he thought proper; and if the Witnesses should deviate from the Matter in Question, they would stop them.

— Egberrows said, that T. B. Rous on his canvassing, ordered Mr. Southall to give him a Ticket; that Alderman C—ne afterwards gave him three Tickets; that he carried them to Mr. W—k—m—'s, and received a Guinea.

Sir Richard Sutton said Mr. C—ne was a Person that had not been named before, he should therefore move for the Council to withdraw, that the Committee might determine "whether any Act of Alderman C—ne's should affect Mr. Rous." Sir Watkin's Council said they would then give up that Part of the Evidence, and the Receipt and Delivery of the single Ticket was only proved.

Thomas Miles said he was present at a Meeting of the Freemen of Worcester resident in London, at Mr. Bullock's, in Mutton Lane, near Cow Cross, West Smithfield; that Mr. T. B. Rous, Mr. H—r, and Mr. R—t—ls were present; that Mr. T. B. Rous took him (Miles) by the Hand, and said, "Miles promise me your Vote:" He said, "I will." Mr. Rous then said, "Mr. R—t—ls is my Agent, when you want Money go to him, I will be answerable for what he does." He said nearly the same Discourse passed between

tween Mr. Rous and several other Freemen in his hearing; that he afterwards went to the George and Blue Boar Inn in Holborn, from whence the Stage sets out for Worcester; he there saw Mr. R---ch---ds, who gave him a Guinea, and told him when he got to Worcester it should be made up Six Guineas; he accordingly went to Worcester, but did not poll on Account of the Bribery Oath being put to him.

Dr. Burrell said, "Who would you have polled for had not the Oath been administered?"—"Sir Watkin:"

"Then how came you to receive a Bribe when you knew it would incapacitate you from voting for the Person you intended to serve?"—"At the time I received the Money I did not know the Oath would be put, neither did I know Sir Watkin was a Candidate. Just before we set off in the Coach Mr. R---ch---ds told me Sir Watkin was gone down to offer himself as a Candidate: I then said, when I come to Worcester if I find Sir Watkin is better beloved among the Poor than Mr. Rous he (Sir Watkin) shall have my Vote."

"What would you take Money of Mr. Rous, and vote for Sir Watkin?"—"I told Mr. Rous, when he said go to Mr. Richards, &c. I don't want your Money, all I want is a Man that will serve my Country:"

*[Here Mr. Rous's Council began to exclaim against Sir Watkin, and desired to know if Mr. Rous would not serve his Country as well as Sir Watkin; but the Committee said they were not trying what Mr. Rous would do, but what he had done, and desired the Evidence to go on]*

"and if such a man can be found, he shall have my Vote.—Mr. Rous then said, said to me,---Miles, don't be such a flaming Patriot."

"Then how came you to receive Mr. Rous's Money! you could not imagine a Man that was guilty of such illegal Proceedings would serve his Country?"—"Why, Sir, Mr. R-ch-rds insisted on my receiving it; and Money, Sir, you know, Money is very tempting."

"Who

"Who did you imagine would pay for your Expences down and up?"—"Mr. Rous paid for them down, and I imagined whoever I voted for would pay for them up."

John Poole said, four Tickets were left at his House for him by Mr. V-r-n-n, that he always carried them to Mr. Alderman W--k--m--n's, and received 5s. 3d. for each; that while he was waiting at Mr. Alderman W--k--m--n's to be paid, one Ashton came in with a Ticket; Mr. Bore (the Clerk) then gave him (Poole) Half a Guinea, and desired he would divide it with Ashton.

He was then asked who he voted for? He said, "When he came to the Hustings, and the Oath was put to him, he told them he would not perjure himself for all the Indies."

"Don't you think it was wrong to take Mr. Rous's Money and not vote for him?" "Yes, it was wrong to take Money at all, but it was customary, and what most of the City did."

"If most of the City had committed Murder would you have done the same by Way of Custom?"—"No, there is a Difference between Murder and Money. Most People are shocked at the Thoughts of Murder, but I imagine there are but few present that would hesitate to take Money if offered them."

Sarah Ball was called in, and proved, that in her hearing, Mr. T. B. Rous said to Mr. H--p--r (one of his Agents, "Give that Man (*a Mr. Andrews*) a Ticket."

She went through her Evidence with great Precision, notwithstanding she was cross questioned very much by Mr. Rous's Counsel.

The Counsel for Sir Watkin acquainted the Committee, they should not trouble them any more with Evidences of such trifling Sums, but come more to the Point and with their Permission would first call in Butler Powell, only to prove that all possible Means had been made Use of to summon Mr. Bore, the Person who paid the Money for the Tickets, but without Success.



Butler Powell was called in, and said, he went in Company with Mr. Bird an Attorney (then present in Court) to Alderman W--k--m--n's House and enquired for Mr. Bore: Mr. W--k--m--n said he did not know where he was, he was slept out. Mr. Bird asked Alderman W--k--m--n if he was out on his (Mr. W--k--m--n's) Business; he said "No." They next proceeded to Mr. Bore's House, and saw his Wife, who told them M. Bore was gone into Staffordshire upon Business for his Master; that finding he was always denied, Butler Powell left a Summons with Mrs. Bore, desiring she would give it her Husband as soon as he came home.

Mr. Mansfield objected to this Evidence, but the Committee thought it very proper to prove that Sir Watkin had endeavoured to summons Bore.

Nathaniel W--l--k--ns, of Worcester, was first asked if he did not act as an Agent for Mr. Rous? He said, "No."

"Had he paid any Money for Expences at the Worcester Election?"—"Yes, a little."

"Could you guess within Two or Three Hundred Pounds?"—"No."

"Could he guess within as many Thousands?"—"No."

Mr. Bearcroft said it was a difficult Matter, he believed, to tell within Two or Three Thousand Pounds what had been spent.)

After much pressing he owned to *Four Thousand Pounds and upwards.*

"Who gave you Authority to pay this Money?"—"I don't know."

Lord Germaine, enraged at his Prevarication, got up and said, "Sir, do you think this Committee can swallow such an Absurdity as that you could pay away *Four Thousand Pounds* and not know your Authority; I insist, Sir, that you inform us who gave you your Authority."—"---Mr. Rous."

"What

"What was this 4000l for?"—"I don't know, I never examined the Bills.

*[An Attorney to Mr. Rous was detected (by Sir Thomas Clavering) pointing to the Witness, and was severely reproved by the Committee, and ordered to sit down.]*

Lord Germaine again : " So, Sir, you paid away Four Thousand Pounds, and don't know for what ! Do you think you acted like an honest Man to your Employer ; If you are so heedless you shall never conduct an Election for me I will assure you."

*[The Chairman ordered the Oath to be read again to the Witness, particularly that Part which says he shall give the Truth, the whole Truth, &c. and desired that the Evidence would observe that Part of his Oath]*

He then said, " It was for Public House Expences during the Election."

He was continually pressed to relate the Particulars of the Bill ; and if a Bill of a particular Nature had not been charged by one Hucksley ; but he would recollect no farther than that Hucksley's Bill was an extraordinary one, but what made it extraordinary he had forgot.

Sir Richard Sutton said, unless Sir Watkin could prove those Expences were to treat Freemen, the whole Evidence would signify nothing.

John Morris, Master of the Pheasant Alehouse, was then called.

Sir Watkin's Council said they imagined he would not attend, but hoped if he did not the Committee would draw the necessary Inference.

Mr. Rous's Attorney alledged he was not summoned.

A great Dispute arose with the different Council, when the  
D Committee

Committee interfered, saying, if Sir Watkin could prove that John Morris had been summoned, they knew what Steps to take.

Nathaniel W—lk—ns was again called in to prove that John Morris, and himself, came up from Worcester in one Post Chaise; that Morris told him on the Road he had received a Summons to attend the House of Commons, signed Sir Fletcher Norton, Speaker.

The Committee, satisfied that Morris had been summoned, were just going to depart, when Mr. Morris appeared.

John Morris, "Has Mr. W—lk—ns paid you a Bill for Expences at your House during the Election at Worcester?"

He began to equivocate, but was reminded of his Oath, and said, "Yes, in Part."

"What was your Bill?"—"I believe a *Hundred and odd Pounds.*"

Dr. Burrell—"I insist upon knowing, Sir, what the odd Sum was, whether it was ten, twenty, or thirty Pounds: Elections do not come very often, and you must remember the Amount of your Bill!—He answered, "I cannot recollect the Particulars now, but the Total was *One Hundred and Ninety-one Pounds and a Shilling.*"

"You certainly remember what the Heads of your Bill were for!" He said, "I believe *Viſtuals and Drink.*"

"Was any of the Money for Carriages?"—"No."

"Was the *Viſtuals and Drink* for the Voters?"—"Yes."

"Who gave you your Orders?"—"Mess. V—rn—n, R—p—r, B—tt, and Sm—h."

"Who are those Gentlemen?"—"Managers for Mr. Rous's Election in our Parish."

"Where did you carry your Bill to be paid?"—"To the Committee-House."

"Who



"Who were present when you carried your Bill?"—"Several of the Aldermen and Managers for Mr. Rous, but I do not recollect their Names."

"Had you no Constables placed at your Door during the Poll?"—"Yes."

"What were those Constables for?"—"To keep out the Mob."

"You mean by the Mob those that were not Freemen?"—"Yes."

"Had the Constables Orders to refuse Admittance to any Freemen?"—"No."

"How many Freemen do you think you might have in your House of a Day?"—"Generally forty or fifty."

"So none of the Money was for Post Chaises, &c."—"No, for nothing but Breakfasts, Dinners, Suppers, Wine and Ale."

"Have you or have you not received the whole of your Bill?"—"No, I have received *only* One Hundred and Twenty Pounds, but Mr. W-lk-ns told me I might have the rest when I would."

He was asked, "What was the Reason he did not receive the Whole?" He said, "There was an Account standing between Mr. W-lk-ns and himself for Sugar; but afterwards it appeared the Managers had deducted 20*l.* from his Bill, which he would not agree to, so having Occasion for Cash, had received 20*l.* upon Account."

The Council for Sir Watkin acquainted the Committee they should call in no more Witnesses on their Side, but gave Leave for the opposite Council to make their Defence.

Mr. Mansfield said it was now late, and hoped the Committee would adjourn till the next Day, when he would certainly make a Beginning.

Monday, February 7.

The Committee met at Eleven o'Clock according to Appointment, but could not proceed to Business till near Twelve, on Account of the Committee not attending. Mr. Mansfield opened the Defence in a Speech of an Hour and Forty Minutes, recapitulating the Heads of all the Evidences that had been examined, and promised to produce Witnesses who could disprove what they had asserted; he said, Mr. Rous had openly, and, to him, privately, in the most solemn Manner declared that he had not either directly or indirectly made Use of any Means to bribe one Person; that if after so solemn a Declaration he harboured the least thought of Mr. Rous's Guilt, he would throw up his Papers, and leave him to plead his Cause himself; that it was true Mr. Rous had caused a trifling Sum to be spent at the Public Houses in Worcester, but it was really necessary and justifiable; that by the Poll there appeared to be upwards of 1500 Voters, it could not be imagined so great a Body were to assemble in the Street; that as to that Part of an Act of Parliament of King William which says, no Treats, &c. shall be given to Electors, could not be applied to this Case; that he admitted Tickets had been given during the Election, but would venture to assert they were given without Mr. Rous's Consent or Knowledge; that the Evidence on the Part of the Petitioner were chiefly low labouring Mechanics, whose Credit would not go far; that it was highly improbable to think that the Tickets were given as Bribes, for Mr. W-k-m-n, by such a Proceeding, would have subjected himself to a Fine of 500l. for every Ticket, if any Person informed against him; that as to some of the Tickets being for Money he could account for as follows, that first, they were intended for Liquor, but it was judged more prudent to make them for Money, as the Freemen might then spend their Money as they liked. He said, the Evidence already given was, in most Points, highly improbable, and flat Perjury; the witnesses having no Character to lose, did not care how they slandered that of others.

Mr. Gros made a Speech of near Three Quarters of an Hour, but nearly the same as Mr. Mansfield's, only observing that the Occasion of these Petitions were owing to nothing but a discontented Faction, and a disappointed Candidate.

Both

Both he and Mr. Mansfield were mighty pleasant on Sir Watkin; said, it was true Sir Watkin came of an ancient and honourable Family, but it was a great Distance off; and that Specimens of his extraordinary Abilities had been given in the News-papers, which they imagined those Tinkers, Taylors, Carmen, and Porters, that gave him their Votes, had read, and communicated to their Brethren.

Mr. Mansfield then acquainted the Committee he should call in Robert Stemming, Servant to Mr. George Rous, to prove that neither Mr. T. B. Rous, nor his Brother George, were present at the Meeting at Dancox's, in Wardour-Street.—[See *Bumpas's Evidence.*]

Robert Stemming said, he set off with his Master for Worcester on the 12th of October; that he came up Express to London on the 17th, and returned to Worcester on the 19th; that he left his Master at Worcester when he went, and found him there when he returned; and that his Master had been in Town but only Two Days during the Time of the Canvass.

He was pressed by the opposite Counsel to know what made him so particular in the Days of the Month, but returned no other Answer than he was certain those were the Days.

“Did he know of any Treats given at Worcester?”—“Yes; there were Dinners every Day, and he waited at them.”

How many Freemen did he imagine dined generally at the Houses he waited in?”—“Thirty or Forty.”

William Moreton was called to contradict the Evidence of Thomas Miles, in Regard to Mr. Rous's saying, “R-ch-rda is my Agent, &c.”

He said he was present at Three of the Meetings in London, one at Mr. Dancox's in Wardour-Street, one at the George and Blue Boar, and the other at the Two Brewers in Mutton-Lane; that he was certain that neither Mr. T. B.  
or



or George Rous were present at the Meeting at Dincox's; that Mr. T. B. Rous was present in Mitton-Lane; but he did not hear him say any such Words as that R-ch-rd's was his Agent,

The opposite Counsel then asked him, "Whether he did not receive some Money at any of the Meetings?" He said, "Yes; he received Two Guineas at the George and Blue Boar, Holbourn, just before he set off for Worcester; he said, he understood several People had received Money from Mr. R——ls, and he thought he might as well as the rest; he accordingly went into a Room where Mr. R——ds was, who gave him Two Guineas, and bid him sign a Paper which he said was a promissory Note."

*[He was much pressed to discover what the Tenor of the Note was, but Mr. Mansfield objected.]*

He was asked, "What he thought this Money was for?" He said, "to bear his Expences down."

"Did you pay for your Expences down?"—"No, they were paid for me, but by whom I don't know."

"Did you vote for Mr. Rous?" "No, they would not admit me to my Freedom."

"Who paid for your Expences while at Worcester, and up again?"—"Myself."

"What do you imagine was the Reason that you in particular paid for your own Expences?"—"Because I could not get my Freedom."

"Did any one that went down with you, and were admitted to their Freedom, pay for their Expences?"—"No."

"How many do you think went down with you?"—"There was Six Coaches, and Six People in each Coach."

Captain B—— was called to disprove the Evidence of those who had asserted, that Mr. Rous, on his Canvas, had either gave Money, or ordered any Tickets to be given.

*[Captain B——'s Evidence was objected to at first by Sir Watkin's Counsel, as Captain B—— had been in the Room during the Trial.]*

Capt.

Capt. B—said, that he always went round with Mr Rous, on his Canvass, and was generally so near to him that had he gave, or ordered Money, he believed he must have heard him; and to the best of his Knowledge he did not remember that Mr. Rous did either.

On his cross Examination the Council asked him “if he had not a Brother that lived at Worcester?” He said—“Yes.”

“What was his Brother?”——“He kept an Inn.”

“What was the Amount of his Brother’s Bill on Mr. Rous, for Expences during the Election?”——“Three Hundred and Eighty Pounds.”

“What was the Bill for.”——“Entertainment for the Out-voters.”

“Was there not a Deduction made on the Bill, and by whom?”——“There was a Deduction of 20l. or 30l. made by Mr. W-lk-ns.”

“Where was the Bill paid?”——“At the Committee-house by Mr. W-lk-ns.”

John Yarnell was called to disprove the Evidence of Mary Cole, who said she saw Mr. Rous give Yarnell a Piece of Gold, which she thought was a 5s. 3d,

“John Yarnell, do you know Mary Cole?”——“Yes, very well, but not by Name.”

“Did you ever tell her that you received a 5s. 3d. from Mr. Rous?”——“No, I never told her, neither did I ever receive any Money from Mr. Rous”

On his Cro’s-examination he was asked, “How did you know who the Council meant by Mary Cole, when you own you do not know her by Name?”

“I was

" I was told her Name just now in yonder House, by Mr. Tanner, and that she had swore plump against me."

" Did you know what you was sent for here to do ?"——  
" Yes, to deny what she had said."

" As you never received any Money, did you receive any Ticket ?"——" Yes, Four."

" What were the Tickets for ?"——" To drink Mr. Rous's Health."

" Not as Bribes ?"——" No."

" Did you not pay the Money you received for those Tickets back to Mr. W-k-m-n before you polled ?"——" Yes."

" What made you pay the Money back ?"——" Because my Brother persuaded me to it ; he said I could not poll else with a safe Conscience."

" Did you not receive the Guinea back from Mr. W-k-m-n after you had polled ?"——" Yes."

" Then as you did not think the Money for the Tickets was a Bribe, how came you to deliver it back ?"——" I don't know."

" Had you any Discourse at Worcester with Mr. Tanner concerning what you was to prove when you come to Town ?"——" No."

—— Tanner was called to prove that he attended Mr. Rous during his Canvas in the Parish in which Yarnell lived, and that he had not seen any Money given.

Tanner,——" I am a Clerk of the Parish of All-Saints ; I attended Mr. Rous during his Canvas in our Parish, to shew him where the Freeman lived, and I was generally so near him, that  
I think



I think had he offered any Money I must have seen it, and I am pretty certain he did not give any Money to Yarnell."

On his Cross-examination, "Did you, Sir, receive any Tickets?"—"Yes, two."

"Mind, Sir, on your Oath, only two?"—"Why, Sir, I understand the Nature of an Oath, and therefore cannot say to the Number; I might receive more."

"Had you not some Conversation at Worcester with Yarnell about Mary Cole's Evidence?"—"Yes."

"How long ago?"—"About a Fortnight."

"You are sure it is a Fortnight ago?"—"Yes, I am sure it was; it was the whole Talk of the Town."

Mr. Mansfield said he should call in no more Evidences, conscious that those already would be sufficient, that he would have summoned Mr. W----n, but he knew the opposite Council would catch at any unguarded Expression that he might let fall, and considering the precarious Situation he would be in if he had been guilty of disposing of Bribes as reported.

Mr. Bearcroft said, he hoped for the same Indulgence as Mr. Mansfield had had, but as it was now late, he hoped the Committee would suffer him to make his reply To-morrow Morning. They accordingly broke up at Four o'Clock, and adjourned till Eleven next Day.

Tuesday, February 8.

The Committee met at Eleven o'Clock. Mr. Bearcroft made a Speech of upwards of an Hour and a Half.

He said the opposite Council had declared "that Mr. Rous was indifferent in regard to his Seat; that he contended for what was more *dear* to him,—his Honour."

E

He

He said in the first Place, Mr. Rous must be a great Philosopher, to be so indifferent in regard to his Seat; that, in the second Place, however *dear* to him his Honour might be, he must acknowledge his Seat was likewise *dear*: That Mr. Rous now arraigned the Conduct of the Corporation; he thought he had in some Measure a Right so to do, as when Mr. Rous first applied to them to be their Champion, and to fight their Cause (to make Use of Mr. Mansfield's Expression) they told him, it would not cost him more than *Five Thousand Pounds*; that soon after they told him of another *Five Thousand Pounds*; and when he was once in he must go on, till it amounted to near four Times *Five Thousand Pounds*: That Mr. Gros had been very pleasant concerning the Honour and Abilities of Sir Watkin; that he always reckoned the Cause to be bad, when the Council had no other Subterfuge than to declaim against their Opponent; that Mr. Gros had accused him of Indelicacy, and Want of Decency; that he should be glad to know where the Honourable Gentleman found his Delicacy, he was sure it was not in Westminster Hall, it must have been upon some Circuit; that however grateful the People of Worcester might be for the vast Sums they had received of Mr. Rous, he firmly believed they repented the Moment that ever a Nabob entered their Country; for ever since the Gentlemen of the East had found their Way into Parliament, but little Good had been done.

He then went through the Whole of the Evidence on Sir Watkin's Side with great Precision, and stated the Evidence of those brought to contradict them; he said, unhappily for Mr. Rous, his own Evidence had hurt him as much as Sir Watkin's, and he firmly believed the Committee would allow the Balance of Mr. Rous's Evidence to be in Sir Watkin's Favour.

He said they had called in four sermonizing Witnesses, and at last the Clerk of All Saint's Parish to say, Amen.—That Mr. Mansfield had accused them of having mean Witnesses, but though Mr. Rous had always so many Gentlemen with him, he had not introduced any to prove his Innocence; that he remembered a Pun in one of Foote's Comedies, which he thought applicable to the present Affair, "That Money makes the Mayor to go."

"Ah! (replied another) and the Aldermen too."

He

He then produced a Paper of Extracts from the Journals of the House, wherein from the Year 1689 to 1725, seven Elections had been declared void for Bribery, but none of so gross a Nature as the present. That he thought Mr. W—— ought to have been produced, as he had been a wholesale Manager of of Corruption; that in his Opinion, Bribery, in the present Case, had been proved as much as possible, that it could not be supposed that Mr. Rous or Ald. W—— would say to a Man, when they gave him a Ticket, "We give you this as a Bribe for your Vote."

He concluded with saying, that he hoped the Committee would, for their own Honour, and in Compliance with the Oath they had taken, declare the Election to be void, and that the Aldermen W—— and H—— might be taken into Custody, and made public Examples of, to deter other Magistrates, for the future, from behaving in so unconstitutional a Manner; that he did not pray this only for his Client, but for the People of England in general.

The Council then withdrew, and the Committee were left to determine within themselves what to do.

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The House met at about Half past Two o'Clock; the Hon. Charles Massham, Chairman of the Committee appointed to try the Worcester Election, reported to the House the Resolutions of the Committee.

That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that T. B. Rous, Esq; is unduly elected as a Representative for the City of Worcester.

That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that Sir Watkin Lewes, Knt. is not duly elected to serve in Parliament.

That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Election for Worcester be declared Null and Void.

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Upon which Sir Watkin Lewes, Colonel Lechmore, and George Rous Esq. declared themselves Candidates.—Then the following Addresses to the Freeman were published.

To



To the Worthy Freemen of the City of Worcester.

Gentlemen,

THE little Arts of my Adversary have prevailed to vacate that Seat which your Suffrages had given. As Doubts may possibly be entertained, whether a Candidate is not disqualified by giving those common Entertainments which the usual Festivity of an Election demanded, but which the nice and delicate Virtue of Sir Watkin Lewes forbids; under these Doubts I will not expose you, Gentlemen, to a second Petition; but permit me to observe, that the Eyes of Men are at this Time directed to the Citizens of Worcester. It behoves you to disprove those Aspersions which your Enemies have laboured to propagate, and to convince the World, that the mean and paltry Motives which abject Minds may impute, can have no Place in the Direction of your public Conduct. You are now called upon to rescue yourselves from Infamy, and I am confident the Event of this Contest will cover your Enemies with Confusion.

Influenced by these Motives, my Brother George Rous now offers himself a Candidate for your Favour. He solicits your Suffrages in Defence of your own Honour, which has been openly attacked, and doubts not but a large Majority on the Poll will amply refute all the Calumnie; that Malevolence may invent, or Rage and Disappointment may endeavour to propagate.

At the General Election I shall once more in Person solicit your Support; in the mean Time permit me to subscribe myself,

Gentlemen,

Your devoted humble Servant,

THOMAS BATES ROUS.

Berner's-Street, London,

Feb. 8, 1774.

To the Worthy Freemen of the City of Worcester.

Gentlemen,

MY Brother having explained to you his Reasons for declining to become a Candidate, permit me to solicit your Favour, during the Remainder of the present Parliament. The mean and illiberal Conduct of those who overturn an Election, for the same Acts which they themselves have openly performed, must rouse your Indignation; and it now becomes a Duty to yourselves, to prove that, deprived of the common Interchange of

of Friends, and unable to take even a Dinner with a Candidate, your Zeal in the Cause, which you once have espoused, will yet be amply sufficient to refute the paltry Cavils of Malevolence and Rage.

If the short Time which must precede the Poll, should render it impossible for me to pay my Respects to each Freeman in Person, I trust you will not impute it to Neglect, but believe that I am, with the greatest Truth,

Gentlemen,

Berner's Street, London,

Your obliged humble Servant,

Feb. 8th, 1774.

GEORGE ROUS.

To the Worthy and Independent Freemen of the City of Worcester.

THE atrocious Acts of Bribery, during the late Election, assured me Success on an Appeal to a superior Tribunal. Happily for this Country such corrupt Practices stand now stigmatized on the Journals of the House of Commons, and an Election procured by such illegal Means has been declared void. The Punishment due to such enormous Crimes as tend to sap the Foundation of the Liberties of this Country is reserved for another Tribunal, when those Persons who have violated the sacred Rights of Election, and poisoned the very Fountain of public Security, will be deemed unworthy of enjoying the Franchises and Privileges of Freemen. — You have now, Gentlemen, a fresh Opportunity of shewing Yourself sensible of the glorious Privileges of Englishmen, by asserting the Independence of the City of Worcester; and if I shall be thought worthy your free Suffrages, I shall devote entirely to you my future Services.

I am, Gentlemen,

With great Respect and Esteem,

Your obliged and obedient humble Servant,

Cecil Street, London, WATKIN LEWES.

8th Feb. 1774.

To the Worthy Freemen of the City of Worcester,  
Gentlemen,

AS the late Election is declared void, I take the earliest Opportunity of offering myself as Candidate for the Honour of representing you in Parliament. Should my Hopes be crowned with Success, it shall be my constant Endeavour, by a zealous Attention

Attention to the Good of my Country in general, and to the  
City of Worcester in particular, to approve myself not wholly  
unworthy of your Choice, and of the Honour conferred on,  
Your most obedient and obliged Servant,

NICHOLAS LECHMERE.

London, Feb. 9, 1774.

On Wednesday Feb. 9, Sir Watkin set out from London,  
and arrived at Worcester on Friday; he was met by a prodigious  
Number of People, who took the Horses out of the Carriage,  
and drew him into the City, where he was received with  
the loudest Acclamations. Immediately on his Arrival Sir  
Watkin began the Canvass, and met with very great Success;  
on his Entrance into the City a Party preceded him, singing  
the following Song.

*To the Tune of Rule Britannia:*

Crown'd with Laurels see he comes,

Freedom's darling, fav'rite Son;

Breathe the Flutes, and beat the Drums,

'Tis for Freedom's darling Son.

C H O R U S.

Then long let Freedom, let God-like Freedom reign,  
And Worcester ne'er be sold again.

See who comes to set you free,

Guardian of your Liberty;

See the Man the Fates decree,

Guardian of your Liberty.

What avails the Nabob's Gold,

See who comes to crush its Power;

See the Man by Fame foretold,

Born to crush the Nabob's Power.

Now's the only Time to prove.

Your Corruption's Trade disown,

This the only Time to prove

Freedom's Birthright is your own.

P E N I S





A N  
A C C O U N T  
O F T H E  
S E C O N D E L E C T I O N  
F O R T H E  
C I T Y o f W O R C E S T E R ;  
W I T H  
C O P I E S  
O F T H E  
P U B L I C A T I O N S  
I n F A V O U R o f e a c h P A R T Y ,  
D U R I N G T H E C O N T E S T .



THE CITY OF WORCESTER

A N. M.

A C C O U N T

O F T H E

S E C O N D E L E C T I O N

F O R T H E

C I T Y O F W O R C E S T E R

W I T H

C O P I E S

O F T H E

P U B L I C A T I O N S

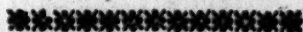
I n F a v o r o f t h e P A R T Y

D U R I N G T H E L A S T

.....



AN  
A C C O U N T  
OF THE  
SECOND ELECTION  
FOR THE  
CITY of WORCESTER.



**S** IR Watkin Lewes finding, on his second Arrival at Worcester, Feb 11, 1774, that George Rous, Esq; Brother to the late returned Member) had declined, and Colonel Lechmere, (a Native of the City, and Son of Edmund Lechmere, of Hanley, Esq; who had formerly represented the County of Worcester in Parliament) had begun his Canvass that Morning, in less than a Quarter of an Hour Sir Watkin proceeded to the Town-Hall, and having ascended the Steps before the Door, addressed the Citizens in the following Speech:

*" Gentlemen,*

*" The free and independent Spirit which you have shewn, by making so glorious a Stand in the Cause of Liberty, commands my highest Esteem.—Your noble and generous Support of me on the present Occasion, shall always meet with my sincerest Acknowledgements.*

*" Permit me, Gentlemen, with Pleasure, to inform you, that the late corrupt Proceedings of the Enemies to their Country, and to your particular Liberty, are at length stigmatized by the Great Council of this Nation; nor shall the Actors of this Treachery, Bribery, and Corruption, want my earnest and hearty Endeavours to make them suffer what they so justly merit.*



"I cannot help expressing my Astonishment at finding in this free City Persons so totally insensible to the true Interest of their Country, as to stand forth in Support of this Cause which has been so highly marked with the Indignation of the whole Kingdom; Notwithstanding such unjust and ungenerous Behaviour, let us steadily persevere in what we have so nobly begun,—the Defence of our much-injured Liberty; in the Service of which I shall, with Pleasure, dedicate my future Life."

As soon as he had finished he went upon his Canvass, and continued till after Nine o'Clock that Night, attended by Torches, &c.

INTRO

Thursday, February 17, came on the second Election, when, on Opening the Poll, Sir Watkin made a Speech nearly to the following Words:

"Gentlemen,

"I am happy in having this Opportunity of congratulating you upon the Decision of the House of Commons on the late Election; and I trust that such corrupt Practices stand stigmatized in such a Manner, that we are not now to dread the fatal Influence of Bribery and Corruption.

"Among many other infamous Publications, there is one that I cannot help taking Notice of, as it is an Attempt to impose upon you, under a Pretence of explaining the Resolutions of the Committee, which says, 'that the Election was set aside on Account of Entertainments; and that the Tickets which were disposed of were not Bribes.'

"Now, Gentlemen, I can inform you from Authority, that it was declared void on Account of Bribery, brought Home to the Person of the late Candidate, and to his Agents, the Leaders of your Corporation, *those Instruments of Bribery and Corruption*. I am astonished that those very Men whose Conduct has been so exposed to the World, can have the Effrontery to appear again before their Fellow Citizens. — The Eyes of the whole Kingdom are now upon the City of Worcester; and I trust you will not disappoint their Expectations, but assert your Independence.

"It has been propagated that I intended to decline, in order to depress the Ardour of my Friends in the Public Cause. Be assured, Gentlemen, that I never will desert you while you think proper to support me, nor ever betray your Confidence or your Interests."

The

At this Election the Bribery Oath was administered to almost every Person, in the same Manner, as at the last; which was received without the least Hesitation, (Money, &c. not circulating so freely as has always been customary on those Occasions) and the Poll closed in less Time, by four Days, than that of the former Contest, as appears by the following State:

February 17, 1774.

STATE of the POLL for the CITY of WORCESTER.

	Col. Lechmere.	Sir W. Lewes.
Thursday 17th,	— 131	— 131
Friday 18th,	— 143	— 143
Saturday 19th,	— 136	— 136
Monday 21st,	— 178	— 178
Tuesday 22d,	— 97	— 77
Wednesday 23d,	— 111	— 27
	<hr/> 196	<hr/> 692

Majority in Favour of Col. Lechmere *at the Final Close*  
of the Poll 104

In the Total for Sir Watkin, 21 Men belonging to the China Manufactory are not included. They came to poll for him on Tuesday the 22d, but were objected to by the other Side; however, as they were considered by Sir Watkin and his Friends as legal Voters, they were asked who they meant to poll for; on which they declared themselves in his Favour, and their Names were accordingly entered in the Books. If therefore they really had a Right to poll, the Majority against Sir Watkin can be no more than 83. — Mr. Serjeant Glynn, it is said, pronounces them legal Votes.

After the Poll was closed, Mr. Lechmere and Sir Watkin published the following Addresses; viz.

To the Worthy Freemen of the City of WORCESTER.

Friends, and Fellow Citizens,

THE Pleasure I now feel, by having so large a Majority of your free Suffrages, is, but in a very small Degree, lessened by the Scrutiny which has been demanded by my Opponent, and allowed by the Sheriff. I am confident that this last Effort will be as vain as the Attempt to gain a Majority of your Votes has been fruitless. Upon the Poll I have a fair Majority of

104 Votes; and, as it is well known that from the Moment the Books were opened, the Election has been a *continued Scrutiny*, my Opponent and his Friends will, in a few Days, be covered with that Confusion which the Attempt deserves. 'Till I have been declared duly elected by the Sheriff, I hope my Friends will think that I judge prudently to decline the usual C  remony of being chaired. Accept my most grateful Thanks for your generous and kind Support; and be assured that it shall be my constant Endeavour to deserve that Confidence you have this Day reposed in,

Gentlemen,  
Your obliged, obedient, and faithful Servant,  
NICHOLAS LECHMERE "

*Worcester, 23d Feb. 1774.*

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*To the Independent and Worthy Freemen of the City of*  
WORCESTER.

" Gentlemen,

" THE constitutional Support I have received from you, who have exerted yourselves so nobly in the Cause of Liberty, calls upon me to return you my warmest Thanks; and though your animated Efforts have not been crowned with Success on the Poll, yet you have the conscientious Satisfaction of having discharged your Duty, by yourselves and your Country. I congratulate our Opponents on their Majority, if they can feel any Joy in triumphing over the lost Freedom of Election, and the Violation of the Principles of the Constitution. But every Man of Reflection will justly think that the fallen Virtue of his Country is an Object of Condolance.

" When I consider we had to contend with every Species of corrupt Influence and Power, I am surprized that We should have so great a Number, and Their's so much decreased. It gives me no small Pleasure to inform you, that the Interposition of a Lord of Parliament in the Election of a Representative, has been declared a high Infringement of the Rights and Privileges of the Electors of this Kingdom, and a Violation of the Principles of the Constitution. There are not wanting Precedents in the Journals of the House of Commons, of such Persons making their Submission at the Tribunal of the Representatives of the People, and I hope the present unconstitutional Interpo-

sition



tion will be deemed unworthy the Countenance of the Guardians of your Rights and Privileges.

I have the Honour to be,

With great Respect and Esteem,

Worcester,

Your obliged humble Servant,

Feb. 23, 1773.

WATKIN LEWES."

A Scrutiny being demanded, it was granted, and the Court adjourned for that Purpose till Tuesday the 1st of March, but neither Sir Watkin Lewes, or any Agent of his, being present that Day to go on with it, the Sheriff declared Nicholas Lechmere, Esq; duly elected by a Majority of 104 legal Votes; and returned him as a Representative in Parliament for the City of Worcester, in the room of the late Mr. Boulton. After which Mr. Lechmere made a very genteel and suitable speech, concluding with this Expression;—" *As you have chosen Me freely, I will serve You faithfully.*" — Then, pursuant to Custom, the Colonel was chaired, and carried through the principal Streets of the City, amidst the loudest Acclamations of a great Number of People, &c.

The following Letter assigns the Reason why the Scrutiny was not attended to by Sir Watkin, or any of his Friends, viz.

*Copy of a Letter sent to the Sheriff, Feb. 28, 1774.*

" S I R,

" It appearing from a Variety of Evidence, who have voluntarily deposed before a Magistrate of this City, that the Court, on Wednesday last, was not adjourned by public Proclamation during the Sitting of the Court; I am required to inform you, that Sir Watkin Lewes is therefore precluded by a Resolution of the House of Commons from proceeding in his Scrutiny.

I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

Worcester, 28th Feb. 1774.

— — —."

On the other Hand, the Sheriff declared in the Hall, before he returned the Colonel, that the Court was properly adjourned; and the Deputy Sheriff also, in a Hand-Bill, under his own Signature, affirmed, " That the Court was regularly adjourned by the proper Officer after the Close of the Poll, before the Sheriff left the Court, and by his express Order."

On

On Thursday Evening, Feb. 17, some Disturbance happened in High-Street, as Sir Watkin was returning from the Town Hall, occasioned by an Egg being thrown at him, which struck him on the Face, and breaking to Pieces daubed his Cloaths, &c. as well as those of some Gentlemen who were near him; whereupon the Populace, to shew their Resentment, broke the Shop Windows of the House from whence it was imagined the Egg was thrown.

As the former Election was nothing but a Scene of Riot and Confusion, this proved quite the Reverse; and so careful were each Party in adhering to the Act of Parliament respecting Bribery, &c. which disallows of any Kind of Treat from a Candidate, that at every Meeting of the Candidates and their Friends, the Reckoning was jointly discharged by the Company present.

Never was any Contest carried on with more Spirit on both Sides than this, which proved rather expensive to many Tradesmen and other Citizens, who generously accommodated most of the Out-Voters with Lodging and Diet at their own House during their Stay in Worcester.

The last Election the Out-Voters could command all Superfluities on the Road, and lived to a most shameful Excess; but this Time they had scarcely a necessary Sufficiency allowed, and were hurried on, Night and Day, more like Helons, destined for Slavery, than Freemen going to an Election.

A Gentleman from Birmingham, dressed rather plain, coming up to poll, several of Mr. Lechmere's Friends called out *A Pauper! A Pauper!* The Man polled for Sir Watkin, and told them, with an indignant Voice, that so far from being Pauper, he was able to spare a Thousand Pounds towards the Support of Sir Watkin, without hurting his Family; that he would return Home immediately, and send as many Freemen to Worcester, at his own Expence, as he could meet with; he did so, and sent ten Votes, who polled for Sir Watkin.

Monday, March 7, in the House of Commons Colonel Lechmere was presented to the Speaker by Mr. Dowdeswell and Mr. Rushout, when he took the Oaths and his Seat for the City of Worcester.

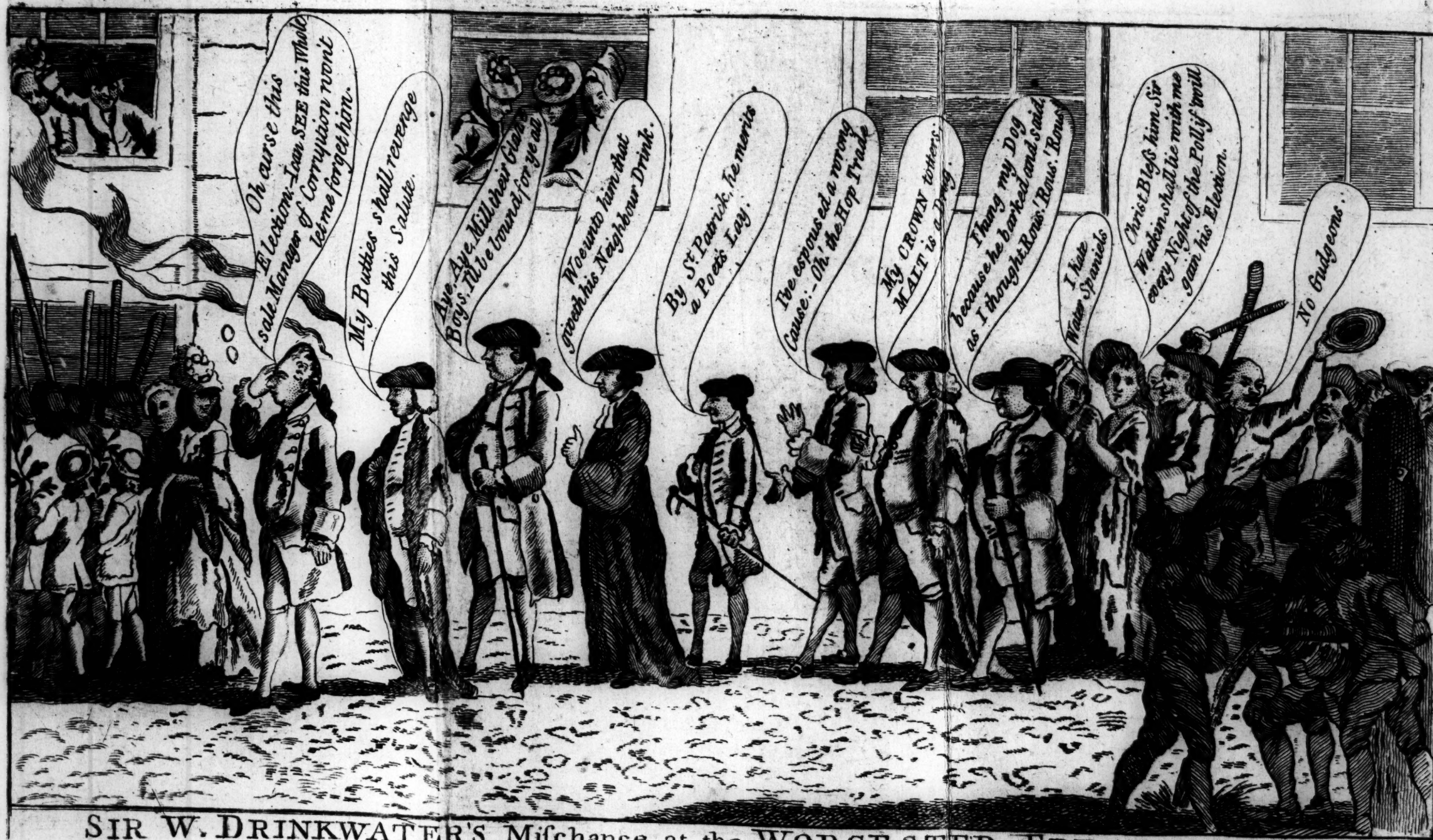




At that an Egg let fly,  
Hit him directly o'er the Eye,

And, running down his Cheek, besmear'd,  
With Orange-tawny Slime, his Beard.

HUDIBRAS.



SIR W. DRINKWATER'S Mischance at the WORCESTER ELECTION, Feb. 17. 1774.





COPIES

OF THE

PUBLICATIONS

IN FAVOUR OF EACH

PARTY

DURING THE

CONTEST.

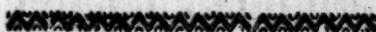




# PUBLICATIONS

## IN FAVOUR OF

### Mr. LECHMERE.



To the Freemen of the City of Worcester.

**T**HE Circumstances of the *late Contest* are so fresh in every one's Memory, that it will perhaps be thought needless to recapitulate them.—And yet it may not be amiss slightly to run them over, so far as they may be supposed to have given Birth to *that* which at present engages us.—The Candid and Impartial will, I believe, readily agree, that the *two Parties* which since the Death of Mr. Boulton have opposed each other, were actuated thereto more by those Animosities which had long subsisted between them than by any commendable Partiality to the Cause they espoused.—It has, I fancy, for a long Period of Time been always understood, that a Candidate proposed by the *one* would be opposed by the *other*; and from this Certainty of an Opposition, every Gentleman of our County has been deterred from offering us his Services.—There have not however been wanting People who, tho' void of *any* natural Interest *any* where, have judged it much for their Advantage to be in Parliament, and have therefore been willing to purchase that Honour at a considerable Expence. Their Object has been what they call an *open Borough*, by which they understand a Town where a Man, however unknown, however void of Connections, or even Recommendations, may, by unbounded Expence, ensure his Success.—I blush to say that the City of Worcester has been considered as such; and it is for this Reason that a Vacancy *here* never fails to rouse the opulent Merchant and aspiring Nabob; to which we may *now* add the Patriotic Supporter of the Bill of Rights. The Merchant and Nabob (for so it was the Fashion to name Mr. R.) were our first Candidates.—A Contest was begun, and carried on at a great Expence

Expence by both Parties ; till the first, finding that should he succeed for the Remainder of the Sessions he would have the whole Game to begin again at the General Election, wisely declined, and rejoiced to escape from a Place where he had foolishly hoped to establish an Interest by fine Speeches and a few Thousands. Little, good Man ! did he know the Freemen of Worcester. Their Support of him, which he construed Regard, was only *Pique* ; and their seeming Friendship, *Party* : Their much talk'd of *Liberty and Independency*, proved only Cloaks for Maliciousness.—Convinced at last of this, he declined any further Contest, and left the Town open to his Adversary ; who now looked upon himself as secure, nor ever dreamed of a fresh Opposition. In the mean Time the disappointed Party, enraged at the Retreat of their Chieftan, resolves to ransack Earth, Sea, and Skies, for some *proper Instrument of Vengeance* that might revive their drooping Cause. In this Situation they learned that there was an Office lately established in London, under the Name of a Society, from whence Candidates might be procured at a Moment.—To this Place they instantly apply, and are soon supplied with one of the most perfect Kind.—Down he came swelling with Liberty and Independency, swearing that every Mouthful of Bread and Cheese was a *Bribe*, and every Quart of Ale a Cup of *Corruption*. His Person however so charmed the Mob, and his Address had such an Effect on them, that they spit out the half-devoured Morsel, and left the foaming Cup untasted.—The Child that is used to be well fed, will thrive but ill on Bread and Water :—Nor can an Interest raised by Plenty and Profusion be supported by Poverty and Penury. So it proved.—The Patriot's Cause fell to the Ground, and Mr. R. was declared duly elected—Well-disposed, but highly indiscreet and unguarded, under the Influence of People equally ill-judging, he permitted his Agents to use Methods which (tho' formerly practised and allowed) no Committee of the House of Commons would now venture to countenance or approve. On a Petition therefore, the Election was declared void, and all such Methods pronounced illegal.

In Consequence of this, all Entertainments and Compliments now stand forbid, and of Course a great Part of Expence is precluded.—By this just and equitable Decision the Country Gentleman is enabled to offer himself as a Candidate without incurring that enormous Expence for which the honest Representative can never be repaid—As such Col. *Lechmere* makes you a Tender of his best Services.——As your Countryman and Fellow-Citizen, as a Gentleman of known Honour and Integrity, he has every Claim to your Support.—These are Things which



perhaps you need not be told. Let me however warn you not to be deluded by the prevailing Cry of the great Obligations we have to Sir W.—We can at best only consider him as an *Instrument*,—as a Machine, which, however useful, derives all its Importance from the occasional Hand that sets it in Motion.

C A N D I D U S.

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### FRIENDS and FELLOW-CITIZENS.

**T**HE Hurry of the Canvass being now over, it is high Time to contradict the impudent Falshoods contained in Sir W——'s Address to you. It is Time to shew you with what matchless Effrontery he dares assert Untruths on one Side of the News-Paper, tho' the strongest Proof of their being such appears on the other. To begin with his Assertion, that the most atrocious Acts of Bribery have been proved.—It cannot be denied that the Friends of Mr. Rous distributed Tickets. Did not the Friends of *Mr. Kelly* and *The Knight* do the same? Surely the most abandoned of the Party will not deny it, when so many of you can, and at a proper Time, will prove the contrary.

In the next Paragraph he felicitates his Country that such corrupt Practices stand now stigmatized on the Journals of the House of Commons. What particular Stigma is affixed by the Determination of the House of Commons, which affects the Honour and Reputation either of Mr. Rous or his Agents? The Resolutions will best shew the Falshood of this;—they are as follow :

“ That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that T. B. Rous, Esq; is unduly elected as a Representative for the City of Worcester.”

“ That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that Sir Watkin Lewes, Knt. is not duly elected to serve in Parliament.”

“ That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Election for Worcester be declared Null and Void.”

By these Resolutions it is evident the Committee were clearly of Opinion, that the Distribution of Tickets in the Manner it was proved, *Was not Bribery*: But as the treating of Voters, either by Tickets or in any other Manner, was improper and illegal; on this Ground the late Election was declared void: And if the Committee had judged otherwise, the Resolutions would have been conceived in other Terms.

Now

Now when you hear these patriotic Gentlemen exclaiming against Bribery (for such they call Distribution of Tickets;) bellowing for Independency, and the Freedom of Election: Ought they not to be, and are not they, spotless? Free from the least Imputation of that Crime which they so severely reprehend? No—I tell you that many, very many of them, even the Man who now fills the first Office in this City, one who has been held out to us as an *Ornament to human Nature*, has been as guilty as his Brethren; and we may with great Truth say to him, as the Prophet said to David, *Thou art the Man!* Then be not alarmed for your Friends who are threatened with Prosecutions: It is of a Piece with the rest of the Proceedings of the Party; 'tis a feeble Effort of their Malice; but it will not, as they vainly hope, reimburse the Pockets of the Subscribers: Nor would I have you forget that these Hypocrites are as vulnerable in this Part as yourselves.

We have now a Candidate who is a Native of our City; whose paternal Estate lies within Ten Miles of it; and whose Father represented the County worthily in several Parliaments. They justly dread that the brazen Image they have set up (which we will never worship) should be thrown down by *Mr. Lechmere*; and are no less disappointed now, than when their Idol, the great American Merchant, prudently deserted them and their sinking Cause.—Be assured that tho' the Election of your worthy Candidate, whose spotless Fame even Malice itself must respect, and whose Worth the most inveterate Enemy must acknowledge, has been declared void; tho' there has not been wanting Partizans to support the Petitions with the most improbable and deliberate Perjuries, and our deserving Friend has been the Victim of this new Determination; yet little will be gained, except the diabolical Pleasure of doing Mischief, by continuing and increasing those violent Animosities which are already too prevalent amongst us. There is not the least Doubt but Sir W. will again be rejected by a Majority as great as before; and that he may be so, ought to be the hearty Wish of every Lover of Order, and every true Friend to the Peace, Trade, and Prosperity of this City.

V E R I T A T I S    A M I C U S.

To the Worthy Freemen of the City of Worcester.  
Gentlemen,

**Y**OUR late Election being declared void; I think it necessary to inform you, that by the Conduct of Mr. Rous's late Opponent,—the penurious Disposition of some, and the

the

the Inability of others, you are deprived of every Entertainment and Refreshment usually given at Elections. As Mr. G. Rous has this Morning declined, permit me to request the Favour of your Votes and Interest in Behalf of *N. Lechmere, Esq; a Country Gentleman*; and once more convince your Fellow-Citizens, that you are superior to low Malice and mock Patriotism.

A FREEMAN.

To the Worthy Freemen of the City of Worcester.

Gentlemen,

**T**HE Reasons why *Mr. Rous* has thought it prudent at this Time to decline offering you his Services to represent you during the Remainder of the Sessions, are sufficiently explained to you by his Address of the 8th Instant. And *Mr. George Rous* having altered his Intention of becoming a Candidate; permit me, *Your Countryman*, to intreat the Favour of your Votes and Interest to represent you in Parliament. As the Election must of Necessity come on in a few Days, it may not be in my Power to make a personal Application to every Freeman; this will not, I trust, be imputed to me as a Want of Respect, as nothing can be farther from the Sentiments of my Heart: I wish for nothing more than to approve myself on this, and every other Occasion, how much and how truly I am,

Your obliged and faithful

Humble Servant,

Grosvenor Place,  
London, 10th Feb. 1774.

NICHOLAS LECHMERE.

**T**HE Friends of Sir *W. L.* finding their Cause bad, have now descended to the meanest Arts, by threatening you with Prosecutions, in order to deter you from giving your Votes for Col. *Lechmere*. My Fellow-Citizens, be not terrified at their scandalous Proceedings, which are only calculated to intimidate you, and in the End can be of no Consequence;—it is the last Effort of their Malice, and a Confirmation of their Weakness.

A FREEMAN.



## A CAUTION.

**T**HE Tickets of Messrs. Davis, Bevington, Bessley, and Newman, which were issued on Account of the Scarcity of Silver, being still current, tho' the great Plenty of Silver at present makes the Use of such Tickets wholly unnecessary: And as there is great Reason to suspect these Tickets will be employed for the Purpose of corrupting the Freemen of this City, by the Mock Patriot or his Agents.—This is to Caution all those who are Friends to the Freedom of Election from accepting them in Payment; and to request that those Persons who offer such Tickets in Payment at this Time may be observed with Attention, in order that proper Notice may be taken of these Transactions; in Case it shall be discovered that such Tickets shall be employed for the Purposes suspected.

Worcester, 12th Feb. 1774.

A FREEMAN.

To the Worthy and Independent Freemen of the City of Worcester.

**A**S it has been industriously propagated by the Friends of my Opponent, that I intend to decline; I find it necessary to assure you, that the Success I have hitherto met with on my Canvass, notwithstanding all the mean Arts and Insinuations of my Enemies, has so greatly exceeded my most sanguine Expectations, that it has confirmed me in my Resolution to stand the Poll to the last Man. I will not desert my Friends, and have not the least Doubt, but their steady Support will procure me the Honour (which I so ardently wish for) of representing in Parliament this City where I first drew my Breath.

I am,

Your faithful and obedient

Humble Servant,

Saturday, 12 o'Clock,

NICHOLAS LECHMERE.

My dear Fellow Citizens and Brother Freemen.

**M**Y Indignation rises at hearing so much said in Behalf of Sir W. L. one of the Candidates for your Favours at the ensuing Election. I would ask you, What has he done for you? I'll tell you, He has, without intending you any Service at all, deprived you of that charitable and necessary Assistance

since you would again have met with from your real Friends, in this Time of Scarcity of all the Necessaries of Life. It is now become a Crime to give you (tho' you should be ready to perish) either Money, Bread, Meat, or Beer: The Person who out of mere Compassion should dare to relieve you at this Time would, by Sir *W.* and his Party, be marked out as an Enemy to his Country, and be prosecuted for Bribery to the utmost Rigour of the Law.

The Whole that has been done by making the late Election void amounts to no more than this; that for the future a Gentleman who would willingly spend a little Money amongst you will be elected without Expence, and when he gets thus into P——t will not be more your Friend, nor one Title the honest Man.

Seeing then my dear Brethren and Freemen that Sir *W.* and his Party have robbed us of every joyous and plentiful Entertainment at this Time, and that you my Fellow Citizens who keep Publick Houses are immediate Sufferers, resolve with me to reject the Man and his Party for ever, and support cheerfully our Countryman, Mr. *Lechmere*, who has been brought up amongst us;—whose Father worthily represented this County in Parliament, and who, by being the eldest Son and Heir-Apparent of such a Father, is qualified to represent us.

Feb. 14, 1774.

A POOR FREEMAN.

## The A L A R M.

To the Freemen of the City of *Worcester* who are Members of the Church of *England*.

**A**RE you not *alarmed*? I am sure you have Reason so to be at the Combination which is now formed by *Quakers*, *Presbyterians*, and *Anabaptists*, and, indeed, by *Dissenters of every Denomination*, against the Church of *England*; for it is very certain that, although they pretend their Opposition in the present Election is against the Corporation, their real Design is to pull down the established Church. The *Mask* thus taken off, do you likewise, my dear Friends, *for the Sake of that Church*, disdaining all other Motives, unite yourselves together as one Man, and join with the Corporation, the only Body able and willing to protect and defend you, to prevent the Execution of so execrable a Design, by manfully combating, under the Banner of that Church, the malevolent Schemes which those *Vipers* in  
your

your *Bosom* the *SecTaries* have formed, and with a Parcel of *false Brethren* are now carrying on for its Destruction; and if you my Friends are, as it is your *true Interest and Policy* to be thus united for your own and the *Churches* Preservation, rest assured that the Gates of Hell, or the Malice of your Enemies, the Dissenters, shall never prevail against either.

The Church of *England* and *Lechmere* for Ever!

Worcester,  
Feb. 17, 1774.

A FREEMAN and CHURCHMAN.

N. B. If the Churchmen, now engaged with the Dissenters, were to separate themselves from the rest of that Scabby Flock, it would soon appear how mean and contemptible the Dissenting Interest is in this City.

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Worcester, 17th Feb. 1774.

To the Freemen of Worcester.

Gentlemen,

**F**ACTS are indisputable — Altho' Sir W. L. (*your very worthy Candidate*) has this Day, in a most abusive and illiterate SPEAK, invidiously and indiscriminately accused the Corporation and Mr. Rous with Bribery and Corruption, equally ignorant of forming a just Idea of either, and has placed the Opinion of the Committee of the House of Commons in a Light most distant to their Conceptions. — Yet these common Resorts being inadequate to such vile Purposes, fired with Indignation and Disappointment, immediately after the Poll of this Day, *Ruffians* of the Party were basely but weakly prevailed upon to endeavour to extricate him from his Difficulties by breeding a Riot, and falsely charging Mr. Lechmere's Friends with the Fact, which, on Examination, was brought Home to these *Creatures*, who are under Prosecution for the same, on the Evidence of several Eye-witnesses, whose Testimonies cannot be disputed.

*Sic transit Gloria Mundi!*

C

A SONG.



## A S O N G.

**Y**E Men of this City give Ear to my Song,  
Whether High or Low Party, attend old and young ;  
All Zealots in Faction, in Bustle and Strife,  
Such Subjects as these are the Joy of my Life.

*Derry down.*

And first cast your Eye on the Head, Mr. M——r,  
Who with seeming Reluctance accepted the Chair ;  
His Passions are strong, and his Manner is bluff,  
Party Zeal is his Foible, 'tis foolish enough.

The next in Rotation is Alderman Gibby,  
Who's sick at the Heart, if Report does not fib ye ;  
Thro' Zeal to his Party, in Conscience he loaths  
To be bound by such trifling Engagements as Oaths.

View of Broadbrims the Heads of the Tribe, their Grimace,  
Their grave solemn Look and fanatical Face,  
Tho' such demure Sanctity sits on their Brows,  
They'll for Gain quit their God and the Devil spouse.

See the Presbyter next with his foul venal Soul,  
With rancorous Heart like his old Patron Not ;  
Evade his mean Arts—his Affection for Pelf  
Makes with him King and Country both centre in Self.

And because the cant Name to my Purpose is handy,  
Observe Captain Allen, the late Jack-a-Dandy,  
What a Medley of Nonsense he speaks—in a Word,  
When sober good-natur'd—when drunk most absurd.

Rev. Giles, alias Horne, red hot joins them hearty,  
Without the strong Liquor he's true to no Party ;  
What ! a Parson get drunk ! Pugh ! 'tis not very rare,  
The Man that is drunk is void of all Care.

Soft S—k—t so oily must not be forgot,  
Nor slow heavy headed immur'd L——t ;  
Ill-match'd are their Throats, yet their Noise has no Bounds,  
So we'll run them in Couples as oft we run Hounds.

There's Capt. O'Blunder, who's all self-sufficient,  
In Argument noisy—in Knowledge deficient ;  
And proud peevish Dickey, that obstinate Elf,  
With all the World angry—not pleas'd with Himself.

Many

Many others in this mottled Tribe you must know,  
Fag, Private, and Drowsy, Young Scutch, Prating Joe,  
By Nature were modelled from Clay void of Wit,  
Remember the Maxim, " Ex nihillo nil fit."

At present I'll leave them expos'd to your View,  
My Pen's thrown aside 'till there's something starts new :  
Believe me, dear Friends, I always lov'd Fun,  
Keep it up my staunch Boys 'till the Business is done.

## A S O N G.

**S**EE *Lechmere* now triumphant ride,  
In Spite of Faction's baneful Tribe ;  
Let Freedom's Sons his Praises sing,  
True to his Country and his King.  
Let Freedom's, &c.

Sweet Liberty lifts up her Head,  
Discord's ignoble Train is fled ;  
Let Freedom's Sons his Praises sing,  
True to his Country and his King.  
Let Freedom's, &c.

The Good and Great shall all unite,  
To support their *Lechmere's* legal Right ;  
Whilst Freedom's Sons his Praises sing,  
True to his Country and his King.  
Whilst Freedom's, &c.

Hail, sacred Peace ! may he regain  
Thy long-lost—with'd-for—happy Reign ;  
Whilst Freedom's Sons his Praises sing,  
True to his Country and his King.  
Whilst Freedom's, &c.

Long may he live to support the Cause  
Of British Liberty and Laws ;  
Whilst Freedom's Sons his Praises sing,  
True to his Country and his King.  
Whilst Freedom's, &c.





PUBLICATIONS  
IN FAVOUR OF  
Sir WATKIN LEWES.



To the Worthy and Independent Freemen of the City of  
WORCESTER.

Gentlemen,

Feb. 9th, 1774.

**T**HE noble and glorious Support that Sir WATKIN LEWES has given you, in Defence of your LIBERTIES, calls not only for your warmest Acknowledgement, but your steadiest and firmest Assistance upon the approaching ELECTION, which will be in a few Days: Shew yourselves as Men, and stand forth as FREEMEN, determined to assert your unalienable Rights as Englishmen, to return unanimously the Man, who has done Honour to his Country and himself, and peculiarly stood forth your Champion and Friend.

A Constitutional VOTER.

To the Worthy and Independent Freemen of the City of  
WORCESTER.

Gentlemen,

**T**HE eminent Service that our present Candidate, Sir WATKIN LEWES, has done to the Constitution of this Country, by the Suppression of Corruption in the ELECTION of our Representatives, which had almost destroyed the very Essence of it, demands not only the grateful Acknowledgments of the CITIZENS of Worcester in particular, whose Rights he has so resolutely and nobly defended, but that of the Nation in general. — With what Abhorrence, therefore, ought we to look upon an Opposition to the Man to whom we owe such infinite Obligations, supported by a Set of Delinquents, who have been the chief Instruments of those  
vile



vile and corrupt Practices that have justly brought upon us the Contempt of the Nation; and whose Punishment, for such atrocious Offences, hath been remitted by one Tribunal, that they may suffer with more Severity by another. — We have hitherto, my Fellow CITIZENS, proceeded with that Resolution and Spirit in the Suppression of such infamous Practices, as hath procured us the Applause of the whole Nation; let us therefore exert our utmost Endeavours to elect the Man, whose Resolution seems calculated, and whose inflexible Integrity will ever induce him to persevere in such Means as shall be necessary to restore the FREEDOM of ELECTION, and, by so doing, give fresh Vigour to the Constitution of our Country.

Worcester,

Feb. 12th, 1774.

A FREEMAN.

Feb. 12, 1774.

### WORCESTER ELECTION.

The corrupt Proceedings of Alderman *W* ——— and the rest of the worthy Corporation of Worcester (happily for the Inhabitants of that City, is now held forth to the World in proper Colours; and there is no Doubt that their Characters (in the Opinion of Mankind) will suffer the same irreparable Loss as their private Fortunes will in the Courts of Justice.

*To N. L. Esquire.*

I Was not a little astonished at seeing an Advertisement from you to the Freemen of Worcester. With what Face can you offer your Services, when you stood by and suffered the City to be put up to public Sale, nay, supported that very Man who had purchased them as so many Slaves? You say, “should your Hopes be crowned with Success, it shall be your constant Endeavour to shew a zealous Attention to the Good of your Country in general, and to the City of Worcester in particular.” What Right have you to flatter yourself with one Ray of Hope after such Conduct? The Freemen will resent such Behaviour, by which they have been deceived into the Acceptance of Bribes for their Suffrages, and exposed themselves to Prosecution. Less Reason have you to expect any Assistance from the Aldermen, who have been sent out of London with the Reproaches of the whole City, and probably may end not only in their Disgrace, but in the utter Ruin of themselves

themſelves and Families. The Country Gentlemen will juſtly think, that ſupporting Sir *W. L.* is the only Way to reſcue the City of Worceſter from that Reproach which it has long ſuffered. He has nobly fought the Cauſe of the independent and honeſt Citizens in Parliament, and has a juſt Claim to expect their Support. He has rendered great Service to the Kingdom in general, by ſigmatizing Bribery and Corruption. And ſhall it be ſaid that the Freemen of Worceſter are ungrateful!—Retire, for Shame, if you conſult the Honour, or the Good, as you *profels*, of the City, or your own future Proſpect, when your Situation may make it (not to uſe a harſher Expreſſion) more convenient. If you ſtand the Poll you may (to gratify your Vanity) involve whole Families in Ruin; the declining of which may be the Means of ſaving. And if you do ſtand, be aſſured you will be worſted; which will terminate in your own Diſgrace.

An Independent FREEMAN.

**A**S many of the Aldermen are now ſerved with WRITS out of the KING'S-BENCH, for their infamous Behaviour of *Bribing* and *Corrupting* their Fellow Citizens; the next Enquiry is to be made after all thoſe who have received Money, either for Tickets or otherwiſe, as they are equally culpable by the Laws; and particular Notice will be taken of all ſuch Offenders, as they come to poll at this Election, and they will be proſecuted to the utmoſt Severity the Laws will admit of; and every Perſon who can give Information of ſuch Offenders, are deſired to acquaint Mr. Phillips, Attorney at Law, at Mr. Bird's, High-Street.

### SERIOUS QUERIES,

Addressed to the FREEMEN of the City of WORCESTER.

- I. **H**ATH Colonel LECHMERE made a *public* Declaration of his *public* Principles to you?
- II. Hath he promiſed to ſupport a Bill for ſhortening the Duration of Parliaments?
- III. Hath he promiſed to promote a fair and equal Representation of the People in Parliament?
- IV. Hath he promiſed to promote a Place-Bill to ſecure the Integrity of the Representative Body?

V. Hath

V. Hath not Sir WATKIN LEWES pledged himself to his Country to support these grand Constitutional Points?

VI. Would not the whole Kingdom reproach the City of *Worcester* with Ingratitude, and declare that you are no longer Freeman but Slaves, should you reject the Man who hath rendered you such signal Services, and who hath made such a noble Stand for the Liberties of the People of England?

VII. Should any Freeman remain Neuter in this glorious Struggle? No! Let him form the best Opinion that he can, and support it with becoming Spirit.

VIII. Lay your Hands upon your Hearts, my Fellow Citizens, and ask yourselves if you can answer it to your own CONSCIENCES or to your COUNTRY, in supporting an Officer of the Guards, preferably to an Opponent, who will reflect Honour upon your Choice, and be of the greatest Service, not only to the City of WORCESTER, but to the *whole* NATION.

An Independent FREEMAN.

## A SERIOUS ADDRESS

To the FREEMEN of the City of WORCESTER.

Gentlemen,

**I** Most earnestly exhort you to consider seriously whom you are going to elect your Representative. Your Rights and Privileges, as Englishmen, are now at Stake, the Honour and Independence of the City of *Worcester* are concerned, and the whole Kingdom have their Eyes upon you. — It is indifferent to us whether we are to be enslaved by Nabobs or by *Ministerial Power*; but both concur at present to deprive us of the Exercise of our *free Suffrages* — The immense Army which is kept up now in the Time of profound Peace, is a great Oppression upon the People of England, and which the labouring Poor feel in the exorbitant Price of every Necessary of Life: And as all States have been overturned by the Military, so will this Country at last be enslaved by them. — Now or never! LIBERTY and INDEPENDENCE, or abject, confirmed SLAVERY.

No Ministerial Tool, No Pensioner,  
No Placeman.

The



The INDEPENDENT FREEMAN'S INVITATION to  
the POLL on Sir *Watkin's* Second Arrival.

Tune—*Rural Felicity.*

**Y**E Lads for the Contest again be preparing,  
Corruption is scourg'd, and the Nabobs are sick;  
Sir **WATKIN** for Justice so strongly adhering,  
The Dupes of Oppression has stung to the Quick.

C H O R U S.

Then come one and all,  
Attend to the Call,  
To serve your Defender with Chearfulness fly!  
Come, see  
True English Liberty,  
Lovers of Freedom abounding in Joy.

Be true to the Worthy, whom Nature has given,  
A Spirit of boldly defending our Law;  
Since Freedom's an Attribute granted by Heaven,  
We cannot too firmly adhere to the Cause.

CHORUS.—Then come, &c.

The Tools of Corruption, who once made a Rattle,  
Before the Tribunal were almost struck dumb;  
Poor Freemen no more shall be bought like horn'd Cattle,  
The Scene is disclos'd, and the Charge is brought Home.

CHORUS.—Then come, &c.

The Patriot who makes bribing Aldermen tremble,  
By all honest Englishmen reverenc'd shall be;  
Reward real Merit, together assemble,  
In choos'ing Sir **WATKIN** we prove ourselves free.

CHORUS.—Then come, &c.

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LIBERTY HALL. A SONG.

Tune—*Derry down, &c.*

**O**LD HOMER, but what have we with him to do?  
'What are Grecians or Trojans to me or to you?  
Such Heathenship Heroes no more I'll invoke,  
Choice Spirits, assist me, attend Hearts of Oak.

Derry down, &c.

Sweet Peace, below'd Handmaid of Science and Art,—  
Unanimity, take your Petitioner's Part;  
Accept of my Song, 'tis the best I can do—  
But first, may it please you,—My Service to you.

Perhaps

Perhaps my Address you may premature think,  
Because I have mention'd no Toast as I drink;  
There are many fine Toasts, but the best of them all  
Is the Toast of the Times, that is, *Liberty Hall*.

That fine British Building by ALFRED was fram'd;  
It's grand Corner Stone MAGNA CHARTA is nam'd:  
Independency came at Integrity's Call,  
And form'd the front Pillar of *Liberty Hall*.

That Manor our Forefathers bought with their Blood,  
And their Sons and their Son's Sons have prov'd the Deed's good;  
By that Title we live, by that Title we fall,  
For Life is not Life out of *Liberty Hall*.

In her Mantle of Honour, each Star-spangled Fold,  
Playing bright in the Sunshine, the Burnish of Gold;  
Truth beams on her Breast; see, at Loyalty's Call,  
The Genius of England in *Liberty Hall*.

Ye sweet smiling Courtlings of Ribbands and Lace,  
The Spaniels of Power, of Bounty's Disgrace;  
So supple, so servile, so passive, ye fall,  
'Twas Passive-Obedience lost *Liberty Hall*.

But when Revolution had settled the Crown,  
And Natural Reason knock'd Tyranny down,  
No Frowns cloath'd with Terror appear'd to appall,  
The Doors were thrown open of *Liberty Hall*.

See England triumphant, her Ships sweep the Sea,  
Her Standard is JUSTICE, her Watch-Word *Be free*;  
Our King is our Countryman—Englishmen all—  
God bless him and us, when in *Liberty Hall*.

O, were *is des Hall*, Monsieur wants to know,  
Tis neither at Paris, Marli, Fontainebleau;  
Tis a Palace of no Mortal Architect's Art,  
For *Liberty Hall* is an ENGLISHMAN'S HEART.

# A S O N G.

TUNE—*The Lillies of France, &c.*

**L**ET the Freemen of Wor'ter now give their Applause  
To the Knight who defended fair Liberty's Cause;  
Join your Voices in Chorus, and each bear a Bob,  
To the total Confusion of every Nabob.

Corruption is over, since T—— B— R—s

Was for Bribery expell'd from a Seat in the House.

Corruption is over, &c.

If L——e requests that his Son you would chuse,  
 A Freeman with Sorrow his Vote must refuse;  
 For his Name's only used to cover the ill,  
 'Tis a L——e you swallow, but R—s *gilds* the Pill:  
 For tho' he may think he's as snug as a Mouse,  
 'Tis an Artifice only of T—— B—s R—s.  
 Let the Prodigal spend all his ill-gotten Store,  
 And then send his Brother to London for more;  
 The Expence, the Profusion, the Bribery is vain,  
 For Freedom in Wor'ster for ever shall reign;  
 And when they least think on't will fall on them soufe,  
 An honest Committee,—Oh! T—— B— R—s!  
 To vote for Sir WATKIN we'll go one and all,  
 Mr. R—s, if he likes it, may stand for Bengal;  
 To the Black Sons of India restore the Roupees,  
 For in Wor'ster we'll chuse only him whom we please;  
 So a Fig for the Nabobs, we don't care a Louse  
 For choleric George, or for T—— B— R—s.

## The DEMI-REPS. A SONG.

TUNE—*Jack the Brisk young Drummer.*

**Y**E Lasses that so fondly see  
 The modern mode of Polling;  
 Who ne'er to Bribes or Perjury  
 Would with the least controuling;  
 Bid Modesty forsake her reign,  
 Assemble in a cluster,  
 And join the forward wanton train,  
 Which shines so bright in *Wor'ster*.  
 'Twas in the Hall but t'other day,  
 When Matters were debating,  
 A Female Junto, people say,  
 Full wantonly were prating.  
 Great numbers who the scene survey'd,  
 Declared that Nymphs so daring,  
 Had from some Bagnio stole or stray'd,  
 To go Electioneering.  
 To see the Men so much outdone  
 By modern Female fame, Sir,  
 Old W——n cast an angry frown,  
 And C——ll blush'd for shame, Sir.  
 The City Sages seem'd to flout,  
 That such a forward jury,  
 For Impudence should brazen out,  
 The veteran Bawds of Drury.

Amongst



Amongst the leering smirking band,  
 Who fac'd so bold about, Sir,  
 A Lawyer's Spouse \* shall foremost stand;  
 Pray who could front her out, Sir.  
 For tittering she, as many tell,  
 Could hardly hold -----;  
 Some took her for an Oyfter Girl,  
 And some a Chandler's Daughter.  
 The 'Graver's Spouse, † 'tis hard to say,  
 What Genii could bewitch her;  
 Miss Noggs ‡ their parts did well display,  
 I pity Jemmy Twitcher. §  
 Squire Dicky's Dolls § for sport seem'd ripe,  
 What pleasure 'twas to view them;  
 For not a Lafs, save Lady Snipe, ||  
 At hissing could outdo them.  
 The Mother of All-Saints £ was there,  
 And much was struck with wonder,  
 To find that she for brazen glare  
 To others must knock under.  
 But 'mongst these modern Demi-reps,  
 The tale you'll think amazing,  
 A Malster's Daughter 8 to eclipse  
 A Pompadour at gazing.  
 'Twas in the gallery I'm told  
 This hissing tribe assembled,  
 Where some in shame, not yet grown bold,  
 At such proceedings trembl'd;  
 Nay many at the sight did start,  
 And look'd with indignation,  
 To think such Troops could form a part  
 Of Wor'ster's Corporation.  
 Ye Nymphs whom love and decency  
 Your conduct have attended,  
 Forgive the Muse and scorn to be  
 At modern truth offended:  
 Ye perjurd slaves, since Newgate's cell  
 May quickly be your quarters,  
 Prepare to hear the passing bell,  
 And take your wives and daughters.

\* Mrs. B--d.

† Mrs. H--c---k.

‡ Miss W.k---s.

§ Mr. B-ll--d.

§ Miss C-f-s.

|| Mrs. N-th.

£ Mrs. Cl--l nd.

8 Miss B--nes.

Worcester, 1st March, 1774.

The LADIES in the GALLERY.

A S O N G.

**T**HE Drums shall beat, and Trumpets play,  
To usher in the happy Day,  
Of a glorious Lechmere for ever.

The Drums shall beat, &c.

No longer shall the Tyrant boast  
Of Liberty and Freedom lost;  
We have drove him hence, he has quit the Coast,  
To a glorious Lechmere for ever.

Now let his Friends, by Yea and Nay,  
Once more their joint Subscriptions pay;  
Their Hero's Debts they must defray,  
As Sir Watkin's gone—for ever.

Let Lilly with his badgering Tricks,  
And Hooper with his Politics,  
No longer boast like Hereticks,  
But a glorious Lechmere for ever.  
The Drums shall beat.

Let S--k-t with his grimace,  
And B--d with his baboon Face,  
Dear Gibby, and Jack Tar embrace,  
Whilst Freedom's Sons their Song shall sing  
To a glorious Lechmere for ever.

The Drums shall beat, and the Trumpets play,  
To usher in the happy Day,  
Of a glorious Lechmere for ever.

To finish with the lesser Tribe,  
Now Men of Sense we'll set aside:  
To close the Poll, may *Jack-a-Dandy*  
And *'Squire S—st* hang Hand in Handee.  
Whilst Lechmere's Friends in Chorus sing,  
And toast Success to Church and King,  
With a glorious Lechmere for ever.

The Drums shall beat, and the Trumpets play,  
To usher in the happy Day,  
With glorious Lechmere for ever.

F I N I S.

